

The Court Appointed Special Advocate Program in Kentucky:

The Role of CASA Volunteers in Dependency, Abuse, and Neglect Cases

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CASA of the Bluegrass

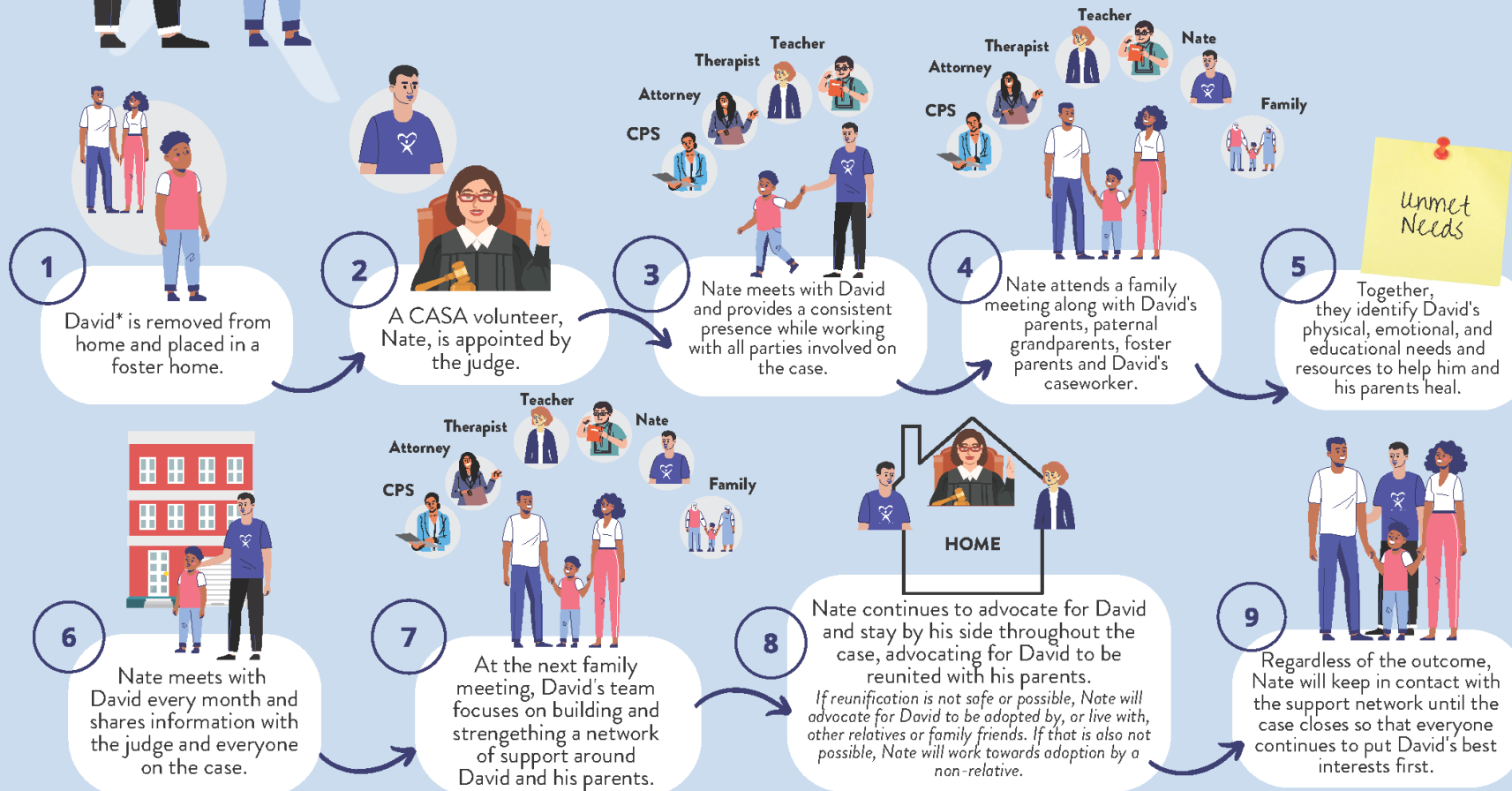
- Regional program covering four counties: Anderson, Boyle, Franklin, and Mercer Counties
- 759 children served over the past five years
- In 2023, 49 CASA volunteers served 173 children
- CASA volunteers invested a total of 3,832 hours and drove 32,036 miles in 2023
- Invited to CFCRB and all Treatment Team Meetings





WHAT DOES A CASA DO?

When a family is in crisis and becomes involved in the child welfare system, a CASA volunteer may be appointed by a judge to advocate for the child. The highly trained volunteer is someone from the child's community whose responsibility is to get to know the child and their family and advocate for their safety, permanency and well-being while in foster care. This is just one example of the difference a CASA volunteer can make in a child's life.



Role of CASA Volunteers in Dependency, Neglect, and Abuse Cases

- CASA volunteers are objective, community-based volunteers who are appointed by judges to serve in child abuse, neglect, and dependency cases.
- During their time on a case, CASAs research all facts and information, advocate through written reports to the Family Court judge, facilitate court order obligations, and monitor progress and circumstances. CASAs remain on the case until the child(ren) secure a safe and permanent home.
- Impact of Volunteers on recent cases

How CASA Works a Case with DCBS and GALs

- Receives all history and Court Orders on the case
- Conferences case and communicates with DCBS worker
- Communicates child's wishes with GAL, shares information about child with GAL
- Provides recommendations in Court Report to all parties prior to court

[Reference: The Roles of Guardians Ad Litem, Court Appointed Special Advocates, and Social Workers in Kentucky's Child Welfare System](#)

Kentucky CASA Network

- Kentucky has a strong statute governing the role of the volunteer and administration of the program (KRS 620.500 – 620.550)
- Develops local CASA programs
 - Mission is to strengthen and support existing programs and to achieve 100% CASA coverage in all 120 counties
- 19 local programs now covering 97 counties
 - Trending toward regionalization and expansion for sustainability and efficiency
 - More Counties Served with fewer programs;

STATEWIDE CASA DATA

	CY 2021	CY 2022	CY 2023
Children Served	3,758	3,538	3,472
Assigned Volunteers	1,302	1,239	1,211
New Volunteers Trained	324	328	289

THE SYSTEM CASA NAVIGATES IN KENTUCKY

	CY 2021	CY 2022	CY 2023
AOC Petitions Filed ¹	17,809	16,721	16,347
Children in DCBS Substantiations ²	22,837	20,324	19,304

¹ CY 2021, 2022, and 2023 data provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts

² CY 2021, 2022, and 2023 data provided by the Department for Community Based Services

Questions

