

CASA of Cochise County

News & Views



Abby Dodge – CASA Coordinator ~ Lissete Borbon – Support Staff ~ Phone: 432-7521 Fax: 432-7247

Articles

www.casaofarizona.com

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Abby Dodge

I hope you're all enjoying your summer! It's hard to believe it's already July. I know that summer can be a hectic time for families, with vacations and other activities planned. I just wanted to remind everyone that although you should be attending all hearings (with the exceptions noted in the "From the Manual" section of this newsletter), I understand that scheduling conflicts exist. Remember, I am able to attend hearings in your place, to ensure that CASA representation exists. Just let me

Coordinator's Comments

know as soon as you realize that there is a conflict, and I will make sure that coverage is available.

I have had questions lately about different court hearings and whether CASAs are required to attend. This month's "From the Manual" article lists out the different dependency hearings, whether a court report is required, and whether a CASA must attend. Let me know if you have any questions!

I mentioned previously that Ned Letto, one of our advocates, had a great idea about forming a team of CASAs who are willing to present about our program to local groups/nonprofits. I really want to get this idea going, because I think it will help spread awareness of our program and gain us more volunteers. We are currently only supporting about 11% of the dependent children from Cochise County. What this

would entail is contacting local groups (e.g., Rotary Clubs, Kiwanis, church groups) and offering to speak to the groups about our program. You would then become the speaker for one of their upcoming meetings/events. We would provide the PowerPoint presentation, handouts, and promotional materials (if needed). I can also help with getting contact information for local groups. If you are interested in helping get this team going, please let me know!

If you belong to a local service organization or church to which we could present information about our program, please let me know. Lissete and I are focusing on getting CASA of Cochise County out there and spreading awareness. We can use all the help we can get!

Tips to Help the CFT be More Effective

By **Bud & Jan Dragoo**, Cochise County CASA Volunteers

At a recent CASA Support Group meeting, we discussed the importance of the Child and Family Team (CFT) meeting. I mentioned that an agenda helps that meeting go smoothly and encourages members to come prepared. No one likes surprises.

The CFT for our case did not have an agenda until a year ago, when Brad Thayer, DCS Behavioral Health Clinical Coordinator, pointed out that a CFT agenda is required. I am not sure what requires it, but if Brad says it, then that's good enough for me.

In our case, the AzCA case manager is responsible for preparation of the agenda and sending it out to members prior to the meeting. As we all know, case managers of any kind have little time; so, with her blessing, I agreed to prepare the agenda.

There are several advantages to the CASA preparing the CFT agenda.

- The agenda is more likely to get done and staffed prior to the meeting.

- The CASA can ensure that items that need to be discussed do not get left off.
- The CASA has more proactive control.

AzCA has a format for an agenda, but I kept my format simple and listed CFT members by name and the item on the agenda that they are responsible to address at the meeting. CFT members seem to like it. With the agenda, we have found that the meeting has direction and efficiency.

Another CFT technique is to ensure that when one CFT member emails another, **all** CFT members are sent a "cc:" In this way every member is aware of what actions are ongoing with the child even though that member may not have primary responsibility for that action. By having all members involved with every email, the importance of **team** is reinforced.

Networking

By Mary C. Blanchard, Cochise County CASA Volunteer

Several years after I became a CASA, I discovered the value of networking to solve a problem. When I am at a loss figuring out how to do something, I contact someone who might possibly be able to help me. If the contact is able to help or can send me to someone who might be able to help, I have a lead to help me solve my problem. I have helped a mother get a tax refund from the IRS because the father was falsely claiming the children as his dependents. I have helped a mother get HUD housing. I found out how to get services for a girl who was on probation and not a ward of the state. It made me appreciate all the paperwork DCS has to fill out to get services for their kids. I was able to help one of my young men get financial aid for college when no one would help him. He had resented me for years because I forced him to graduate from high school, but he has been a close friend since the day I took him to see all the people he needed to fill out the paperwork for his financial aid. One contact along the way refused to help, so I sweetly contacted his supervisor, explained that the person refused to help me, and enlisted her help instead.

Last week, I met with the DCS case manager about our case involving a runaway. Our young lady took off from school in February, and a pick-up order was sent out to all the police departments. The sister of the girl had been told about sightings in Huachuca City, and she caught a glimpse of the girl when she was working and couldn't leave her cash register unattended. The sister also received two phone calls from Phoenix, but the calls were from a pay phone.

The case manager and I had no leads, and after pondering the problem, the case manager suggested that maybe it would be helpful for one of us to go visit the Sierra Vista and Huachuca City Police Departments and see if there was any additional information that

might be useful in locating the girl. The case manager mentioned that it might also be useful to contact the Phoenix Police Departments. I volunteered to visit the Sierra Vista and Huachuca City Police Departments but declined to attempt to call all the police departments in Phoenix without some hint about where she might be.

I took my court orders and went down to the Sierra Vista Police Department. The lady at the front desk was very helpful and checked and verified that the pick-up order for the girl was on file and the department records did not have any other useful information. She told me I should talk to a police officer, and she arranged for a perfectly delightful officer, Officer Paul Clark, to come and talk to me. Officer Clark listened as I told him about my runaway. He thought for a moment and wondered if there was a picture of the girl on file. He checked and there wasn't. He told me it might be useful to post a picture of the girl on the bulletin board that the officers check each morning at roll call. I thanked him and went off in search of a picture.

My first stop was DCS. The case manager told me there were no pictures of the girl in her file. I knew that the girl's mother and sister were at work, so I finally decided to visit CAS High School and see if anyone could locate a picture.

I am a frequent visitor at all the high schools, so the secretary and I are old friends. I explained my problem, and she pulled up the girl's file. She found a picture the size of a postage stamp and printed it out. We both looked at it, and she asked me to wait a minute and she would enlarge it. She worked until she had a perfectly clear 8 ½ by 11 photograph in color. I thanked her profusely and went back to the police station.

Officer Clark was passing through the office when I came in, so I told him I had the picture and thanked him again for his suggestion. I had

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Networking (Continued)

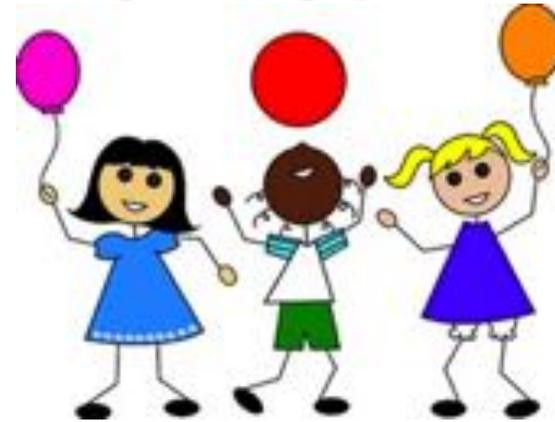
only one copy of the picture, so I asked the lady at the desk if she could possibly make me two additional copies. She did not have the capacity to do this, but she told me to wait a moment and disappeared and came back with two perfect copies. She told me she would put the original in Officer Clark's box for him to take to roll call and post. I thanked her, and as I was leaving, she told me that a volunteer from CASA helps them in the office. I knew it was LuRue Troyer, and we bonded for life when she told me how wonderful LuRue is, and I told her how indispensable LuRue is as a CASA. We both asked each other to tell LuRue about our encounter.

My last stop was Huachuca City. By this time, I was able to tell the lady at the desk that the pickup order had been issued and relayed the information about the reported sightings in Sierra Vista and Huachuca City. I told her I had a picture of my young lady for her to post on the bulletin board for the officers to look at during roll call. She took all my information and promised to post the picture. I thanked her for her help.

The chances are slim that my networking efforts will locate the girl, but until I discovered that it would be useful for the officers to have a picture, we had nothing to go on. The picture is accurate and could prove to be helpful. I also used my cell phone (a new skill taught to me by LuRue Troyer) to take a picture of the girl's picture and emailed it to the DCS case manager to put in her file.

I also realized that it is useful to have a recent picture of every CASA kid to use in an emergency and to have in the DCS file. Now that I am comfortable taking and emailing pictures on my cell phone, I will take a picture of all my future CASA kids.

Kudos



Ned Letto, Cochise County CASA Volunteer

FCRB, 5/04/2016, Review Hearing

The Board received the Court Appointed Special Advocate's (CASA) written statement and acknowledges the CASA for being a continued support for J and D and advocating for their best interest.

Mary Blanchard, Cochise County CASA Volunteer

FCRB, 5/11/2016, Review Hearing

The Board acknowledges the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for time invested in working with H and supporting her progress, prior to H running away. Additionally, the Board appreciates the CASA for the relationship she has maintained with H's sister.

Krista Ochs, Cochise County CASA Volunteer

MEO, 5/24/2016, Review Hearing

The Court praised Ms. Ochs for her excellent report to the Court on this matter.

Games & Activities

By Mary C. Blanchard, Cochise County CASA Volunteer

I have three girls who are elementary school age, and I have discovered a great way to entertain them. I have a grab bag with a slinky, a yoyo and a handheld device that balances a ball. My other choice is a set of dominoes. I have not done games with my teenagers. If they like basketball and have a buddy, they do that. Cooking is a winner with kids who like to cook. Have any of you who work with teenagers discovered any activities that they enjoy besides their cell phones and Xbox-type games?

My set of dominoes has a train whistle that the winner activates by pushing a button. This is a game for kids of all ages. For children who may not be able to visualize numbers represented by dots, it is possible to use only the lower numbers. I used the dominoes that had no more than 5 dots, and it was perfect for 3 younger players.

If we can do something with our kids that requires active participation, we are encouraging them to become less passive and more engaged in an activity where they “drive the train.”

Most of the time, I participate in the game. If I am not participating, I cheer them on. Spending time with our kids is one of the best ways to forge connections. Yesterday, I was visiting my girl in Huachuca City, and she and her cousins and her aunt chuckled when someone mentioned my hopscotch fiasco. Weeks later, they still thought it was hilarious that I lost my balance when I was twirling around and almost fell into a rose bush. I laughed right along with them. I do miss having to give up horseback riding and ice skating, but I hadn't tried hopscotch in 60 plus years, so it can gently fade into the mists of time.

If you try a game and it works, share it with the rest of us. My motto as a teacher was to check out activities that other teachers used, and if

they were better than my ideas, I would ask them to show me how to use it in my class room. As a CASA, I am always willing to do this for my CASA kids.

Writing Stories

By Mary C. Blanchard, Cochise County CASA Volunteer

Creativity is the **ah ha** of development. Every child needs to be exposed to things that will stimulate the imagination.

My role model for creativity is Lynn Vanderdasson wearing her wild hats to help stimulate her kids' imagination. She has a large collection of off-the-wall hats that her kids love. It is an absolute winner as an ice breaker, and it opens up the magic world of “Let's Pretend.”

I have two girls in Tucson, and I can't make the trip up to see them as often as I would like. I call them, and it is a struggle to get them to open up and share their feelings. Somehow, “Tell me how things are going” just doesn't cause them to open up right away. I began by accident with one girl who had worked on a story in class. I decided several weeks later to have each of them write an on-going story. It has now evolved into a shared experience. Each one dictates a story, and I write it up in different-colored fonts. They like this, but I would prefer if the computer would provide a nice selection of glitter fonts.

When I visit, I read each girl's story. Both girls listen, and we project what they have written into an expanded scenario. They draw pictures of their characters and scenes from their stories.

One great benefit from the stories, besides expanding their imagination, is that it gives us a connection where I am not probing into what is going on with them. They have ownership of their story, and they take pride in sharing their ideas with each other.

Working with Case Managers

By **Mary C. Blanchard**, Cochise County CASA Volunteer

1. Try to call or email DCS at the beginning of the week. I realize that our case manager is dealing with emails that have come in over the weekend, but Thursday is a day when DCS case managers are **sequestered**. In plain words, this means they are not allowed to make or receive calls or answer or send emails. If you wait till the end of the week, you are competing with the phone calls or emails that came in on Thursday.
2. Case managers try to respond within 24-48 hours.
3. Meanwhile, while you are waiting for a response to a call or an email, remember that case managers have to appear in court for all their cases. **And** while I gripe when my cases lose their placements and move to Tucson or even farther away, my case manager is also having to take all those hours to visit those cases.
4. If you have an urgent need for information, remember I have told you for years that you need to contact Sylvia Bankson, the administrative secretary, at 224-5990 and ask her to help you.
5. If you feel you the matter is super-urgent, and you need immediate action, then **email** Angela Grissom, the supervisor at
6. Remember that the DCS in Arizona has an average turnover of 30% every year. It is mega-stressful and tons of paperwork and way-too-many cases for one person. Take a moment and be grateful that your child has a case manager and do your bit to make your case manager's job easier.
7. Don't forget to thank your case manager when he/she does a good job. And it doesn't hurt to **cc** your email to Angela.



AGrissom@azdes.gov

CASA of the Month!

Lin Wright

June 2016

Lin Wright was assigned to her first case on July 13, 2015 – so it's been almost a full year that she has been working with her CASA children. Although Lin tends to remain more behind-the-scenes, I know that if I need information on Lin's case, she is only a phone call away. Mary Blanchard, Lin's mentor, has told me on several occasions how impressed she is with the way that Lin is involved with her case and knows it backwards and forwards. Keep up the great work, Lin!

I hope you all have the opportunity to meet Lin. She is very easy to talk to and cares deeply about children – the ones she represents through CASA and the ones she has come in contact with through her experiences driving a school bus in the Huachuca City area.

It truly has been a pleasure working with Lin over the past year. Lin, thank you for all of your hard work!



Thursday Morning Support Group Meeting

By *Mary C. Blanchard, Cochise County CASA Volunteer*

Jan and Bud were there on June 9th, and Bud shared a tip that Brad Thayer gave him. Brad suggested that the CASA send all the members an agenda of important points for a CFT meeting. At times, the behavioral health case manager meanders along at the CFT and it is not well-organized.

Ned told us about aged-out kids. He also mentioned that he had written an article on what AZ Friends of Foster Children will fund. It was in the March 2016 newsletter.



Tuesday afternoon, June 21st, Brad Thayer gave an excellent training: Advocating for Trauma Informed Care.

<http://www.traumainformedcareproject.org/>



Second Thursday of the Month

10:00am-12:00 noon

Home of Lynn Vanderdasson
5776 E. Perry Lane
Hereford, AZ 85615

Evening Support Group

**Last Tuesday of the Month,
7:00-9:00pm
Home of LuRue Troyer
2300 Iris Drive
Sierra Vista**

WHAT IS TIC?

Trauma Informed Care is an organizational structure and treatment framework that involves understanding, recognizing, and responding to the effects of all types of trauma. Trauma Informed Care also emphasizes physical, psychological and emotional safety for both consumers and providers, and helps survivors rebuild a sense of control and empowerment.

Jacob's Law

By Allison Hurtado, CASA Marketing & Community Outreach Specialist, AZ Supreme Court

Thanks to three dedicated foster moms in Maricopa County, some major legislation, known as Jacob's Law, is now in effect in Arizona. Now the moms say their goal is to make sure everyone involved with foster children knows about it.

"Parents need to know what services their children are entitled to," said Anika Robinson, a foster mom for 9 years and one of the moms who worked to have Jacob's Law (or HB 2442) signed by the Governor. "We know a lot of families who've put their kids back in care because they cannot get the services they need to care for them. It's up to us as citizens to find out what the law is."

Jacob's law does several things to help empower foster parents. It first says parents will not be penalized for seeking inpatient treatment or out-of-home placement if the child's behavior poses a risk to the family. On the other hand, it also says parents will not be charged with abuse or neglect if they bring a child with risky behavioral health problems home.

"Families were saying my child is not safe to go home and were being charged with abandonment instead of getting in-home services," Robinson said. "Others brought the child home, so they wouldn't be punished, and then DCS would show up at their door because the hospital called and they were being charged with failure to protect the rest of their family because they brought home someone who just tried to kill a family member. You couldn't win either way."

The new law also mandates that the placement will be given a placement packet when the child is placed in their custody, with all the latest contact information necessary to get the child services. If the

placement (or foster parents) identifies a need for the child to receive some behavioral health services, the placement can contact a regional behavioral health authority (RBHA) directly to do a screening and evaluation. It is now mandated, rather than just policy, that a screening be done within 72 hours of the child entering care and within two hours of being notified of an urgent need. An initial evaluation will be given within seven calendar days and if a need is determined an appointment should be given within 21 calendar days. If no regional behavioral health authority has an appointment open within those 21 days, the placement can seek help from any Arizona registered provider.

"I learned the federal law says you cannot have a waiting list but services in Arizona say there is not a waiting list," Robinson said. "You're given an appointment 10 months out and they don't keep a waiting list. Policy says the most a child should wait is 23 days but policies are not enforceable. If they are not giving you an appointment, there's nothing to enforce it. Now there is."

HB 2442 also protects foster families from possible retaliation. If they disrupt a child or dissolve an adoption because of behavior problems, the other children in their care will not be taken away.

The final measure in the new law says that if a child is reunified with parents and later returns to care, their most recent placement will be notified. If the foster parent has space open and it is in the child's best interest, the child will be placed back with them.

Now that the law has passed the group that started it all is only growing. They've formed a non-profit, ASA Now (Advocacy, Support and Assistance for Families and Kids in Need) and have big dreams of opening a community center for foster families in Maricopa County to go for training, respite, support and more. For more information on the group and on Jacob's Law, visit www.asanow.org.

What is AZ 1.27?

By *Allison Hurtado, CASA Marketing & Community Outreach Specialist, AZ Supreme Court*

In 2012 three pastors of large churches realized even if the members of their congregations stepped up and became foster parents or supporters of foster care in their community, it might not be enough to change the way Arizona's foster care system was headed. That's why they decided to band together and answer the call written in the Bible in James 1:27 to take care of the orphans. That was the start of AZ 1.27.

Today more than 40 churches are members of AZ 1.27. Those churches have multiple campuses located in four counties in Arizona: Maricopa, Pinal, Coconino and Yavapai. They hold regular faith-based Orientations for families interested in foster care and offer other support as well.

"We recruit, develop and sustain churches to recruit, develop and sustain their families in the ministry of foster care and adoption," said Danielle Bannister, executive director of AZ 1.27. "What that looks like is we play a partnership role. We network the churches together to partner in strategic planning for Orientations and Basic Trainings, which is a faith-based training based on a best practice from another state."

The group has created a pathway to fostering which includes Orientation, Basic Training, and a Wrap Around Team. The Wrap Around Team is a group of people they are close to who can offer some support once a child comes into the home.

"Families select their own team, their mom, their sister, their neighbor, people in their life on a daily basis, they bring them to a one-time training," Bannister said. "We kind of inform those people of privacy and some of the unique elements of foster care that they might not be

aware of and why this is a little bit different. We spend a lot of time building empathy and understanding for what a family is going to go through. They spend the last third of the time setting expectations. The family says what they need--prayers, meals, respite--and they have these roles to fill in and the team spends some time saying what is reasonable and what is not. This way when a placement comes, there's no hurt feelings over needs not met. There are people that are understanding of what the needs are."

AZ 1.27 is also supportive of CASA. As they've held these Orientations and reached out to members of their congregations. They've found many are not ready to foster but want to be supportive in some way. That's when AZ 1.27 refers them to CASA, FCRB or other volunteer organizations.

"We believe that relationships transform people and transform lives more than transactions do," Bannister said. "A backpack drive, unless you're really intentional, doesn't really transform anybody. It's more of a service transaction. We really try to get people to be around a foster and adoptive family or be around a child in a really meaningful way that serves that child. That's why we feel so strongly about CASA."

For more information on the group and their work in Arizona visit az127.org.

CCCC, Inc

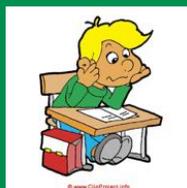
Cochise County Council for CASA, Inc

is a nonprofit organization that raises funds to the unmet needs of abused neglected and abandoned children in the CASA of Cochise County Program. The primary focus is to ensure the educational progress of CASA children through tutoring and scholarships. In addition the council provides clothing, toys and personal items.

If your CASA child/youth has an unmet need, consider the Cochise County Council for CASA to help!!

Call your CASA Coordinator at 432-7521 OR

Send an email to Adodge@courts.az.gov



Theater on the Move™
Presents
THE CASE OF THE RIVERBOAT MURDER
An Adaptation of Agatha Christie's "Death on the Nile"



July 21 -22, 2016
Doors open at 5:30pm, Show at 6:30pm
July 23, 2016
Doors open at 1:30pm, Show at 2:00pm
July 24, 2016
Doors open at 3:30pm, Show at 4:00pm

All shows will be held at:
Village Meadows Baptist Church, 1407 El Camino Real, Sierra Vista

TICKET PRICES:
(Ticket price does not include Pay-as-you-go bars)
Adults: \$15
Military, First Responders, 55+: \$12
Under 14 and Students: \$8

PURCHASE TICKETS:
In advance or at the door at
Village Meadows Baptist Church 458-4500,
Dillard's (Cash or Check only), SV Chamber of Commerce (Cash or Check only),
or Online: www.eventbrite.com

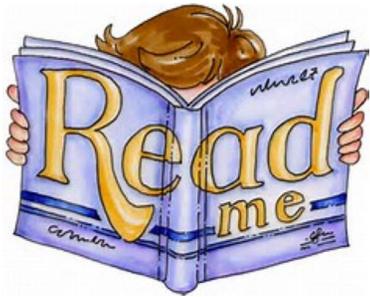
For more information, contact Theater on the Move
520-222-8711, theateronthemove@yahoo.com
www.facebook.com/theateronthemove

Local Fun!
Music! Singing!
Dancing!

PAY-AS-YOU-GO
Entrée bar
Salad bar
Dessert bar
Catered by Landmark Cafés

Michael's upcoming play: "**The Case of the Riverboat Murder**", produced by Theater on the Move, and written by Tommy Kelley. Kathy Shaughnessy is sitting out this time!

| JULY 2016 | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------|
| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
| | | | | | 1 International Joke Day | 2 I Forgot Day |
| 3 Stay Out of the Sun Day | 4 Independence Day  County Offices Closed | 5 | 6 National Fried Chicken Day | 7 Julia M.  Chocolate Day | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 Pecan Pie Day | 13 | 14 Pandemonium Day Morning Support Group | 15 Cow Appreciation Day | 16 |
| 17 National Ice Cream Day | 18 | 19 <u>Sharon</u> : Court Report due for R/F. | 20 | 21 <u>Chris</u> : Court report due for M. <u>Lynn</u> : Court report due for KW. | 22 Susan S.  Mule Mountain Academy – Refresher training. More info to come! | 23 |
| 24 | 25 Threading the Needle Day | 26 **TRAINING** ICWA 101 - MORE INFO TO COME! Evening Support Group | 27 | 28 <u>Ned</u> : Court report due for MK. <u>Morrisa</u> : Court report due for BM. | 29 National Lasagna Day | 30 National Cheesecake Day |
| 31 | | | | | | |



Court Hearings

CASAs are required to attend the following hearings, unless it is specifically stated otherwise.

Preliminary Protective Conference (PPC) and Preliminary Protective Hearing (PPH) Initial Dependency Hearing (IDH)

All three titles (PPC, PPH, IDH) refer to the beginning phase of the dependency case. The PPC and PPH must occur within 5-7 days after DCS's attorney, the Assistant Attorney General, has filed the dependency petition. Issues involved in the PPC/PPH include visitation, available services, and/or placement. This hearing also ensures that the rights of all parties are protected. If the parents fail to appear at the PPC/PPH, then an IDH is held. All issues should be resolved as to what is in the best interest of the child/children.

No report is required for this meeting. Note: A CASA is not usually assigned at this point.

Mediation/Settlement Conference

Thirty days after the PPH, the Mediation/Settlement Conference should occur. Mediation helps sort out issues surrounding the allegation of the petition. The only parties involved in mediation are the parents, the DCS Case Manager, the CASA, and the Mediator. There are no attorneys present during mediation, unless authorized by the court. A Settlement Conference will be used in place of mediation if there are any criminal charges pending against the parents. Attorneys will be present to represent the parents and the child.

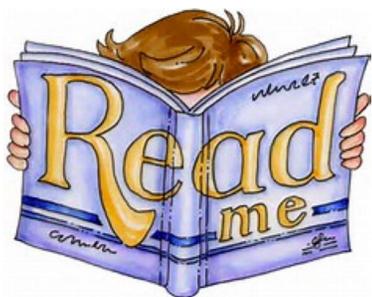
CASAs should make contact with all parties involved before the mediation. No report is required for this meeting.

Pre-Adjudication Conference/Hearing

The purpose of the Pre-Adjudicatory Hearing is to tell the Judge whether your case has been settled or obtain a date for your trial. If all parties are in agreement with the allegations, then the Judge will review that agreement at the hearing. If an agreement was not reached at mediation, then the Judge sets a date for your trial. The trial will be held within 90 days of the first court hearing (PPC/PPH). Many times the Disposition Hearing is held at the same time as the Pre-Adjudicatory Hearing, which is why it is important for Advocates to attend these hearings.

CASAs do not have to submit a report for this hearing.

Continued on next page~



Court Hearings (Continued)

FROM THE PAGES

Adjudication Hearing

An Adjudication or Trial will occur if the parents deny the allegations in the dependency petition. This hearing will determine if any of the allegations are true and if the allegations justify continued court intervention. The Adjudication occurs 30 days from the Mediation/Settlement Conference and no later than 90 days from the date the dependency petition was filed.

CASAs do not have to submit a report for this hearing.

Publication Hearing

A Publication Hearing occurs when the residence of the person being served is unknown to DES, or when paternity has not been established. Service by publication provides notice of the dependency action. It must be published at least once a week for four consecutive weeks, and is published in a newspaper in the last known location.

CASAs are not required to attend this hearing, and no report is required.

Disposition Hearing

A Disposition Hearing is similar to a sentencing hearing. It sets a long-term plan for the child. It reviews the placement and services offered and sets future court review dates. It can be held at the time of the Pre-Adjudicatory Hearing, the Adjudication Hearing, or within 30 days of the Adjudication Hearing.

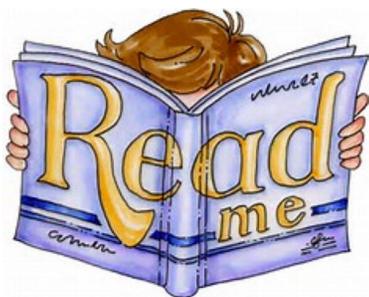
CASAs are encouraged to submit a report for this hearing if they are in disagreement with the case plan.

Review Hearing

A Review Hearing is the court's opportunity to review any progress in the case. If necessary, the court will also make changes to the case plan and issue new orders. This hearing can be held as often as every 45 days, but must occur every 6 months at minimum.

CASAs MUST SUBMIT a Court Report for this hearing.

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Court Hearings (Continued)

FROM THE SEVERANCE

Permanency Planning Hearing

The Permanency Planning Hearing is held no later than 12 months after the date of the removal of the child, unless the child is 3 years of age or younger. The Permanency Planning Hearing must occur within 6 months of the date of removal if the child is 3 years of age or younger. The goal of this hearing is to determine the permanent plan for the child regarding placement and parent issues.

CASAs MUST SUBMIT a Court Report for this hearing.

Severance Hearing

Termination of Parental Rights Hearing

Thirty days after the Permanency Planning Hearing the Severance (Termination) Hearing will determine if the rights of the parent should be terminated and the child freed for adoption.

CASAs may write a report for this hearing.

Post-Severance Review Hearing

Once parental rights are severed, the court may begin scheduling Post-Severance Review Hearings. A case will have either a Post-Severance Review or a traditional Review Hearing every 6 months at minimum. Several of these hearings are scheduled for the same date/time and the court handles these hearings one after another.

CASAs MUST SUBMIT a Court Report for this hearing. The Judge would like CASAs to attend and participate in these hearings.