

Little Dixie CASA

(COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES)

Over **40 children per year** have that “voice” concerned with only their best interest regarding the situation that brought them into the **child welfare system**. These children come from homes of physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, drug addiction, and domestic violence. CASA has a deep impact as to the safety and permanency of children in care. CASA Volunteers



Average # of children served per year: **46.**

Average # of CASA volunteers per year: **18 assigned cases.**

Average # of hours per month given by volunteers: **57, with over 680 per year & over 3400 for a 5 year period.**

Average length in care with DHS involvement with CASA: **18 months.**

Average length in care w/ DHS involvement without CASA: **23 months.**

Court Appointed Special Advocate

- ✓ Recruits and trains volunteers to be advocates for abused and neglected children
- ✓ Established in Pushmataha County in 1997, expanded to Choctaw and McCurtain Counties
- ✓ Funded by State CASA Association, Office Juvenile Affairs, Victim of Crimes Act
- ✓ Current Budget, \$67,411





Court Appointed Special Advocates

- ▶ **Volunteers attend 30 hours of training.**
- ▶ **Volunteers are sworn in by Judge.**
- ▶ Volunteers are assigned a case.
- ▶ Volunteers research & investigate situation.
- ▶ Volunteers report to staff & to the Court.
- ▶ Volunteers “speak up for a child.”
- ▶ Volunteers maintain contact with children.
- ▶ Volunteers oversee case until child(ren) reach safe, permanent home.
- ▶ Volunteers ensure the “best interest of the child.”