

## **CASA ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

### **Principle**

Law

*Implications for administration*

### **CASA - Court Appointed Special Advocate Programs- are:**

#### **Court-based**

A court is authorized to appoint a CASA program to assist it in fulfilling its duties and responsibilities to children in need of care

[Ch.C. art. 424.1]

- *CASA programs cannot operate independently of courts exercising CINC jurisdiction*
  - *CASA is permitted, not mandated*
  - *CASA program development requires judicial interest and need*
    - *CASA client referral is reliant on judicial appointment*

#### **Child-centered**

The purpose of CASA is to advocate for timely placement of children in permanent, safe and stable homes

[Ch.C. art. 424]

- *CASA clients are abused and neglected children in the foster care system*
  - *Advocates are assigned to individual children, not caseloads*
  - *Advocates provide stability and continuity to children in the system*
  - *Individualized attention increases timely permanent placement and decreases time in foster care*

#### **Established pursuant to law**

A CASA program must be established in compliance with National CASA Association standards and a CASA advocate must be trained in accordance with National CASA Association standards and supervised by a CASA program

[Ch.C. art. 116]

- *Established standards are the baseline for CASA program performance*
  - *Standards require community involvement and support*
  - *Program development and administration must meet standards*
- *Advocate training and supervision are required in conformity with standards*