



Michigan CASA Core Model

The Michigan CASA Association core model identifies the foundational elements of CASA best interest advocacy. This includes our guiding principle, the types of cases served, the primary activities performed by CASA volunteers, parameters for staff serving cases and the screening, training and supervision requirements. Michigan CASA assistance and support is limited to core model activities.

The Michigan CASA Core Model:

The CASA program provides screened, trained, and qualified community volunteers to advocate for the best interests of children and youth who are before the court as a result of abuse or neglect as defined by the state child welfare laws, living at home or in out-of-home care.

CASA best interest advocacy is driven by the guiding principle that children grow and develop best with their family of origin if that can be safely achieved. CASA volunteers serve children from birth through the age defined by state statute.

in accordance with requirements MCR 3.917

CASA volunteers advocate for children's best-interest through the following activities:

- Information gathering
- Visit the child at least monthly
- Collaborate and coordinate with legal, child welfare and other partners to assure service provision that is in the child's best interests
- Report to the court with recommendations regarding the child's placement and needed services
- Monitor the case until released by the court

CASA volunteers are:

- Screened per National CASA Association Standards
- Trained according to National CASA Training and Facilitation Standards
- Supported by staff or peer in accordance with National CASA Standards