

**THE CASA KANE COUNTY
CASA/GAL TRAINING PROGRAM**



**SOURCES OF
INFORMATION**

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CHILD

Child Interviews

(Please note that it is not your role as a CASA/GAL volunteer to interview a child about the allegations; many of the children have been interviewed many times and additional interviews may be harmful to the child and to any potential criminal prosecution.)

Type of Information/Assistance

If the child is verbal:

- Information about relationships (parents, families, foster families)
- Wishes and desires for the future
- Challenges or areas in need of help
- Likes/dislikes
- Information regarding visits with parents, siblings, other family
- Other _____

Best way to contact source:

Child Observations

(Visits with parents, visits with siblings, child in current setting, child at school or daycare, etc.)

Type of Information/Assistance

- Affect
- Moods, mood changes
- Developmental stages
- Verbal ability
- Relationships, interactions with others
- Intellectual ability
- Other _____

Best way to arrange observation:

SOURCES OF INFORMATION (Cont'd.)

PARENTS & FAMILY

Parents

(When parents are represented by an attorney, follow program protocol before speaking with the parents.)

Type of Information/Assistance

- Their child's developmental milestones, joys, fears, etc.
- Specific information about the child's behavior related to:
 - Visitations with parents and siblings
 - Adjustments in school
 - Behavior problems and strengths
 - Medical concerns
- Adjustment to separation/loss
- Their background
- Other: _____

Best way to contact source:

Family

Type of Information/Assistance

- What they've seen happening as it relates to the life of the child
- Potential resources for the child and family
- Other _____

Best way to contact source:

SOURCES OF INFORMATION (Cont'd.)

TRIBE

(Applies only if you are working with an Indian child as defined by the Indian Child Welfare Act.)

Type of Information/Assistance

- Potential service resources
- Tribal enrollment issues
- Potential transfer of jurisdiction
- Information regarding whether anyone is going to appear in court for the tribe and whether the tribe is going to formally intervene, send a representative or make a written recommendation; information regarding recommendations
- Potential cultural responses to the current family problem
- Extended family or members of the tribe who may be a potential placement alternative for the Indian child
- Other _____

Best way to contact source:

SOURCES OF INFORMATION (Cont'd.)

PROFESSIONALS

Child Protection Agency Caseworkers

Type of Information/Assistance

- Where the child is placed
- Documentation, case record
- Case plan within 30 days of placement
- Names, addresses, and phone numbers of other principals in the case
- Contact information (e.g., for foster parents, parents, etc.)

- Community or educational resources
- Progress of case plan
- Safety issues, if any
- Medical status of child
- Educational status of child
- Anything else the CASA/GAL volunteer should know
- Integrated Assessment - 40 days

Best way to contact source:

Child's Teacher or Childcare Provider

Type of Information/Assistance

- Child's behavior at school
- Educational problems or delays, strengths
- Changes in behavior
- Child's appearance
- Peer relationships
- Grades
- Parental involvement
- Likes/dislikes
- Attendance prior to/post removal
- School nurse reports
- School counselor reports
- Other _____

Best way to contact source:

SOURCES OF INFORMATION (Cont'd.)

PROFESSIONALS (Cont'd.)

<p style="text-align: center;">Legal Personnel</p> <p><i>Type of Information/Assistance</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminal records, other court records • Other _____ <p>Best way to contact source:</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Child Protection Agency Attorney/Prosecutor</p> <p><i>Type of Information/Assistance</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type of Information/Assistance • Other _____ <p>Best way to contact source:</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Attorney for the CASA/GAL Program or for the Child</p> <p><i>(If there is one appointed)</i></p> <p><i>Type of Information/Assistance</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistance with the legalities of the case • Assistance with complex legal situations particular to the case • Assistance in negotiating settlements in preparation for trial • Filing of legal documents • Subpoenas of witnesses • Other _____ <p>Best way to contact source:</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Attorneys for the Parents</p> <p><i>(If the CASA/GAL program is represented by counsel, the attorney should follow program protocol regarding contacting other attorneys on a case.)</i></p> <p><i>Type of Information/Assistance</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrangements to talk to his/her clients • Anything the volunteer should know about the client • Other _____ <p>Best way to contact source:</p>

SOURCES OF INFORMATION (Cont'd.)

PROFESSIONALS (Cont'd.)

Medical Personnel

Type of Information/Assistance

- Child's medical condition as related to the abuse and/or neglect
- Past medical history, medical records
- Follow-up services that may be required to address medical conditions resulting from abuse and/or neglect
- A particular medical condition that should come to the attention of the caseworker, foster parents, courts, etc.
- Contact with parent(s), if any
- Other _____

Best way to contact source:

Psychological/Psychiatric Professionals

Type of Information/Assistance

- Nature of referral information they received
- How they came to a particular conclusion
- What the diagnosis means in practical terms and how progress is measured
- Discrepancies in opinion
- Possible counseling or therapeutic models being recommended for the child, parents, family, etc.
- Other _____

Best way to contact source:

Foster Parents & Independent Living Coordinators

Type of Information/Assistance

- Specific information about the child's daily life and about the child's behavior related to:
 - Visits with parents and siblings
 - Adjustments in school
 - Behavior problems and strengths
 - Medical concerns
 - Contacts made by parents through letters, phone calls, etc.
 - Child's daily functioning
 - Adjustment to separation/loss
 - Services needed and/or in place

Best way to contact source: