



CASA
 Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN



Newsletter

September 2019

Hancock County

Complete



Remember to take a photo of the CASA child(ren) in your case! This helps the court see the change of the child(ren) throughout the life of a case. After the picture is taken, give it to CASA staff immediately and delete the photo off your device.

Community

September 3rd
 Informational Meeting
 6:00-7:00PM
 CASA OFFICE

Your welcome to come learn more about the CASA program or ask questions about becoming a volunteer. An active CASA volunteer will share their experience.

RSVP to Mandy TODAY!

School

From a teacher standpoint, it helps to simply know when a child is in foster care. We would like to know how the child addresses the foster parent (do they call them Mom, Dad, Mr., Mrs., etc.?). Also, make the teacher aware of any visitation days. Sometimes the child has a hard time readjusting after a visit, and simply knowing helps us be more understanding.

New volunteer CASA TRAINING

October 25th – 27th, 2019

More CASA volunteers are needed to serve the advocating needs of children in Hancock Co. foster care.

Request an application TODAY!

October 1st 6-7pm Info Meeting



CASA Continued Education Training

September 10th at 11AM
 Webinar; Self-Care

September 17th at 11AM
 Webinar; Child Trauma

Family Restoration

Many people get involved in foster care to protect children. However, once you've been involved in foster care for a while, you realize that this is a good motivation but an incomplete one. Foster care at its best is also about family restoration. Perhaps some of our bias against biological families comes from the assumption that most children enter foster care because of physical or sexual abuse. However the latest available national data tells us the most common reasons children enter care:

- 62% Neglect
- 36% Parental Drug Abuse
- 14% Caretaker Inability to Co
- 12% Physical Abuse
- 10% Housing
- 9% Child Behavior
- 7% Parent Incarceration
- 5% Alcohol Abuse
- 5% Abandonment
- 4% Sexual Abuse
- 2% Child Drug Abuse
- 2% Child Disability
- 1% Relinquishment
- 1% Parental Death

A neglectful parent is not necessarily a parent who doesn't care. Often, neglect happens due to addiction, domestic violence or lack of knowledge about appropriate care of a child. These are issues that can be addressed. You'll notice that, by comparison, a relatively small percentage of children in foster care are there because of physical or sexual abuse.

The data from 2017 suggests that, 49% of the 247,631 children exiting foster care were reunited with their biological families. 24% were adopted, 8% were emancipated, 10% went to live with a guardian and 7% went to live with another relative.

For many, the thought of interacting with biological families is scary. Most of that fear comes from never having (knowingly) met one. Certainly, the idea of building a relationship with a person who physically abuses children is daunting, but as we covered earlier, that is not the story for most of the children in care.

www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/foster.pdf

www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/afcarsreport25.pdf

<https://cafo.org/2019/08/16/more-than-enough-help-for-biological-families-part-3-of-4/>



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