

Understanding the Role of a CASA Volunteer and Oregon Statue 419B.112



The mission of Yamhill County CASA is to speak up for the best interests of abused and neglected children who are under the jurisdiction of the court.

Oregon Statue ORS 419B.112 states:

- (1) In every case under ORS chapter 419B, the court shall appoint a court appointed special advocate...
- (2) Subject to the direction of the court, the duties of the court appointed special advocate shall be to:

- (a) **Investigate** all relevant information about the case;
- (b) **Advocate** for the child or ward, ensuring that all relevant facts are brought before the court;
- (c) **Facilitate** and negotiate to ensure that the court, the Department of Human Services, if applicable, and the child or ward's attorney, if any, fulfill their obligations to the child or ward in a timely fashion; and
- (d) **Monitor** all court orders to ensure compliance and to bring to the court's attention any change in circumstances that may require a modification of an order of the court.

“The lawyers know the statutes, the social workers the regulations. But the CASA volunteer is assigned to know the child, one child at a time.”

- Anna Quindlen, author & journalist for the New York Times



The court appointed special advocate is deemed a party in these proceedings and may be represented by counsel, file pleadings and request hearings and may subpoena, examine and cross-examine witnesses. ORS 419B.112(1)

- (8) All records and information acquired or reviewed by a court appointed special advocate during the course of official duties are deemed confidential under ORS 419A.255

Upon presentation of the order of appointment by the court appointed special advocate, any agency, hospital, school organization, division, office or department of the state, doctor, nurse or other health care provider, psychologist, psychiatrist, police department or mental health clinic shall permit the court appointed special advocate to inspect and copy, and may consult with the court appointed special advocate regarding, any records relating to the child or ward involved in the case, without the consent of the child, ward or parents. ORS 419B.112(7)