

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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on the authority of the judge. The volunteer acting as a friend of the court may offer as evidence a written report with recommendations consistent with the best interests of the child, subject to all pertinent objections. The court and a CASA program shall establish a memorandum of understanding in any county where a program is established and shall set forth the roles and responsibilities of a CASA volunteer. The CASA volunteer's appointment concludes when the court's jurisdiction over the child terminates; upon discharge by the court on its own motion; at the request of the program director with the approval of the court; or upon successful motion of a party to the action for removal because the party believes the CASA volunteer has acted inappropriately, is unqualified, or is unsuitable. A CASA shall not accept compensation; have an association creating a conflict of interest; be related to any party or attorney involved in the case; be employed in a position that would result in a conflict of interest or give rise to the appearance of a conflict; use...or use the position to seek or accept gifts or special privileges. A CASA shall conduct an independent examination regarding the best interests of the child that will provide factual information to the court regarding the child and the child's family. The CASA, with the support and supervision of the CASA program staff, shall make recommendations consistent with the best interests of the child regarding placement. The CASA will make every effort to attend all hearings, meetings and other proceedings, and the CASA may be called as a witness. In Section 34, all government agencies, providers, professionals, parents, and families shall cooperate with reasonable requests of the CASA, reasonable requests of the CASA, and the CASA shall cooperate with them. The CASA shall be notified of all hearings, meetings, and proceedings and the court may proceed in its discretion notwithstanding failure to notify the CASA or failure of the CASA to appear. The contents of documents, records, and other information relating to a case are confidential. Violation of this section, breaking the confidentiality, is a Class III misdemeanor. Nothing in the CASA Act affects the attorney-client privilege, and CASA volunteers are immune from civil liability to the full extent provided under the federal Volunteer Protection Act of 1997. That's it in a rather long nutshell. I have passed out some information on CASA for those of you who are new to the body and haven't heard this rigamarole before. If you have questions,