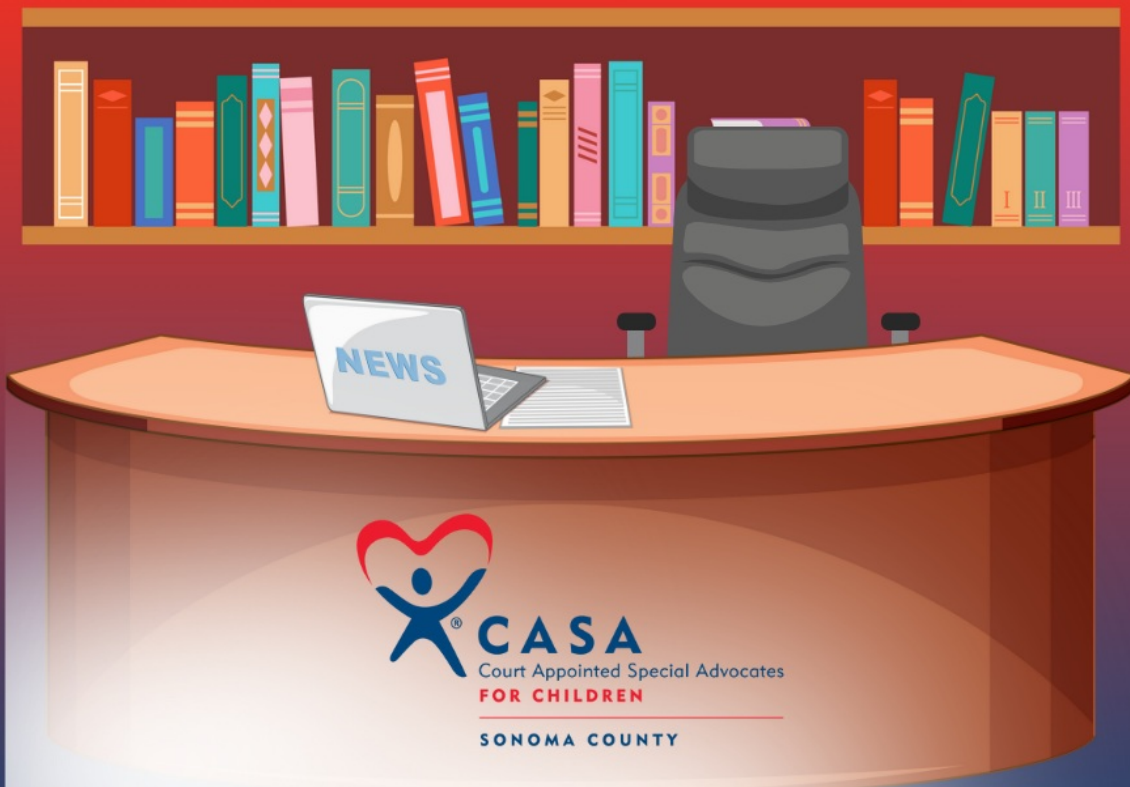




An Important Message From the Director's Desk...

Dear Heloisa,

Many of you might have read the recent news about National CASA and the termination of its contract by The Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs. As a consequence, National CASA is stopping all services and grant payments related to this federal funding and will be appealing this decision.

Our CASA of Sonoma County is not a current National CASA grantee; however, this sudden loss of funding impacts the CASA movement and the over 200,000 children served by CASA volunteers nationwide, whose lives and futures are already impacted by other several federal cuts.

The situation is fluid and the uncertainties are constant! YOU are all in a position to take action and support children and youth at risk in our communities. Together, we will continue to stay steadfast in delivering our mission by speaking up for children and youth's best interests in the areas of education, healthcare, shelter, and safety.

We invite you to speak UP with us. Our loyal supporters, donors, volunteers, friends of CASA are more critical to our mission than ever before. There are several ways your immediate support will be put to good use.

Please continue to read this message to find out how!

With my gratitude for the all the ways you help children and families.

In Partnership for Children,
Heloisa Heinen
CASA Executive Director



How You Can Take Action:

Please take a few minutes now to contact your Senators and member of the U.S. House of Representatives and ask them to immediately contact DOJ to inquire about the award terminations and express their concern about the impact of this far-reaching decision to CASA/GAL programs across the country and the children and youth served.

Sample message below and please feel free to make it personal as well based on your involvement with CASA.

Dear (Senator or Representative Name):

The Department of Justice's Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program supports and promotes court-appointed volunteer advocacy for children and youth who have experienced abuse and neglect. The National CASA/GAL Association, together with its state and local member programs, supports and promotes court-appointed volunteer advocacy so every child who has experienced abuse or neglect can be safe, have a permanent home, and the opportunity to thrive. There are over 900 CASA/Guardian ad Litem (GAL) state organizations and local programs in 49 states and the District of Columbia. CASA/GAL volunteers are appointed by judges in judicial proceedings related to abuse and neglect to advocate for children's best interests. This best interest advocacy makes a life-changing difference for children who have experienced abuse or neglect, many of whom are in foster care.

On April 22, the National CASA/GAL Association unexpectedly received Termination of Award notices for their active grants for the Department of Justice's Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program.

I am requesting that you immediately contact the Department of Justice to inquire about the award terminations and express your concern about the impact of this far-reaching decision to CASA/GAL programs across the country and the children and youth served. Thank you in advance for your assistance and your support.

FIND STATE SENATORS & ASSEMBLY MEMBERS HERE

FIND CALIFORNIA'S U.S. SENATORS HERE

FIND CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES HERE

More Ways to Support CASA:



April is national Child Abuse Prevention Month. When we think about our community, many wonderful things come to mind - our beautiful landscape, our wine country abundance, our hard-working people and close-knit helping neighbors. What we don't want to think happens in our community is child abuse and neglect. Sadly, however, our ongoing advocacy efforts are crucial in preventing abuse and neglect faced by children and youth who enter the foster care system every day.

Here in Sonoma County, over 650 children were found by the courts to have been abused or neglected by their families. When that happens, the child may enter foster care, which can be a disorienting, frightening and unsettling experience for a child.

As we observe Child Abuse Prevention Month and Foster Care Awareness Month, let's recommit ourselves to ending the vicious cycle of abuse, and to stand up for every child too young to speak for themselves.

"My advocate asked me a lot of questions and really listened to my answers. She would take notes at team meetings and before court to make sure my feelings were known, and she advocated for me like no one else did."

- Former Foster Youth

You can join us by donating to CASA via sponsoring one of the 650 pinwheels to bring awareness to Child Abuse Prevention Month in April and Foster Care Month in May or get pinwheels to display in their home or place of business.

SPONSOR A PINWHEEL

SAVE THE DATE:
FRIDAY,
AUGUST 22ND
2025

Benefitting CASA of
Sonoma County

@ Windsor Golf Club

GOLF - FOOD - DRINKS - SILENT AUCTION

JOIN US TODAY! SPONSORSHIPS & MORE!
sonomacasa.org/golf25

All proceeds benefit our vital mission of providing Court Appointed Special Advocates to speak up for children in foster care so they get the support and services in the areas of education, healthcare and safety.

Join us for a swingin' good time!

On Friday, August 22nd CASA of Sonoma County will be hosting our 3rd Annual Hearts FORE Children Golf Tournament at the Windsor Golf Club.

By Registering today as a single player, foursome, sponsor, or course vendor you can contribute to our ongoing mission to provide necessary advocacy services to children in foster care.

REGISTER TODAY

BECOME A CASA VOLUNTEER



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

SONOMA COUNTY

ATTEND AN INFORMATION SESSION IN MAY

If you can commit to spending **2 - 4 hours a week** offering **advocacy, friendship and emotional support** to a child or young adult in foster care, **WE NEED YOU!**

We currently have **60 children waiting** to be matched with their CASA volunteer.

Become a CASA Volunteer!
Quarterly trainings ~ next one in July

SCHEDULE AN INFO SESSION HERE



CASA of Sonoma County | P.O. Box 1418 | Kenwood, CA 95452 US

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