

# JUVENILE COURT OF GORDON COUNTY

THIRD FLOOR - GORDON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

P.O. Box 562

CALHOUN, GEORGIA 30703

HON. J. LANE BEARDEN  
JUDGE

ALYSSA WATERS  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
OF COURT SERVICES

SALVADOR GAYTAN  
C.H.I.N.S. COORDINATOR  
AND CLERK OF DELINQUENCY,  
C.H.I.N.S. AND TRAFFIC

MELISSA CURVIN  
CLERK OF DEPENDENCY

JEFF MCBEE  
CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER

AMBERLE DILLARD  
CASA COORDINATOR  
AND DEPUTY CLERK

LAURA WORLEY  
A.D.J.U.S.T. DIRECTOR

CHARMAINE CLARK  
DIRECTOR OF RICE CENTER  
FOR C.H.I.N.S. AND ASSISTANT  
DIRECTOR OF A.D.J.U.S.T.

Dear Prospective Volunteer:

Thank you for your interest in CASA. A Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) is a trained community volunteer appointed by a judge to speak up for the best interests of an abused, neglected or abandoned child involved in a juvenile court dependency proceeding. The ultimate goal of a CASA volunteer is to help make sure the child has a safe permanent home as soon as possible. In Gordon County, there is a great need for volunteers to serve as advocates for abused and neglected children.

CASA volunteers are the "eyes and ears" of the Juvenile Court. They not only talk with the child involved in dependency cases, but also with anyone else who may be able to provide information about the life and needs of the child they serve. The CASA volunteer also works collaboratively with other local agencies to advocate for the needs of the child and family. A report written by the CASA volunteer is submitted to the court at the disposition hearing and subsequent reviews. The report contains the wishes of the child and the facts that have been gathered. On the day of the hearing the report is shared with the Judge and attorneys involved in the case. The information provided in the report is very helpful and is used by the attorneys in their question of witnesses and by the Judge in making his decision on what is in the best interest of the child.

No experience is needed to become a CASA volunteer, but our volunteers need to possess good communication skills, the ability to work collaboratively, and a sincere desire to advocate for what is in the best interest of children. A prospective volunteer must complete an interview, application, and background screening (involving fingerprinting), successfully complete a 10 session training program and observe Juvenile Court hearings for a minimum of 10 hours.

I would really like to meet with you to share more information about CASA. I am available most Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Please give me a call and I will be glad to set up an appointment to meet with you.

I hope to meet you soon and again, thank you for your interest in CASA.



Amberle Dillard  
CASA Director

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