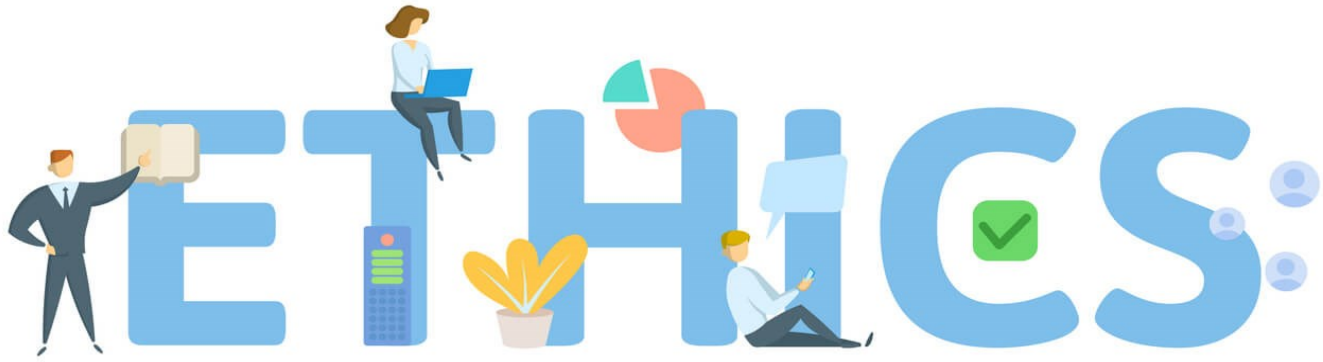
CASA of Washington County Indiana Newsletter

CASA in the Community

Earlier this summer, Courtney presented to staff members at St. Vincent Salem Hospital about CASA and CASA Cares. St. Vincent Salem employees will be holding supply drives for CASA Cares! For more information about CASA Cares, please contact Amber Colwell at

amber.colwell@casawc.org

Friday Night on the Square is September 16th from 6pm-9pm. CASA of Washington County will have a booth to spread the word about CASA! If you are interested in working at the booth, please let Courtney know prior to the event! It would be great to have as many volunteers there as possible!



This month we are continuing our deeper look at the Indiana State GAL/CASA Code of Ethics and how they apply to us as CASA Staff and Volunteers.

Consider the scenario below:

It's Saturday afternoon and you are shopping for a few items at the grocery store. Prior to grocery shopping, you had a visit with your CASA kids at their foster home. While you were visiting the foster home, the foster mom told you that the biological parents in your case haven't attended their last 3 visits. One of the kids was very upset when you spoke with her and was in tears about her parents missing their visits. You are still very upset about this as you wheel your cart through the produce section. You look up from the item you just placed in your shopping cart and notice Judge Medlock is also grocery shopping this afternoon and is standing right in front of you! Perfect! He is **not** going to like what you are about to tell him about what's going on in your case!

SHOULD YOU TELL THE JUDGE WHAT HAPPENED AT YOUR VISIT TODAY?

Indiana State CASA Code of Ethics #6 says:

CASA programs and volunteers will not initiate, permit, or participate in any ***ex parte*** communications with the judge outside the presence of all parties concerning a pending or impending proceeding.

"Ex parte" is a Latin phrase meaning "on one side only; by or for one party". Ex parte communication occurs when a party to a case talks, writes to, or otherwise communicates directly with the judge about the issues in the case **without the other parties' knowledge**.

The judge ***does*** need to know that the biological parents in your case have not been attending their court ordered visitations. However, the appropriate time and place to relay this information to Judge Medlock would be in court either verbally or in your court report.

Volunteer Spotlight

Lindsy Kulikowski

Please help us welcome our newest volunteer, Lindsy Kulikowski! Lindsy was sworn in on July 12, 2022 by Judge Larry Medlock. Lindsy is hard at work on her first case and is already excelling as a CASA Volunteer!

Lindsy is a Salem transplant and is originally from Massachusetts. Lindsy moved to Salem after the Marine Corps and fell in love with the small town vibe. Lindsy has two children, a dog, and a pair of rat babies. Lindsy says she has always wanted to help people, especially children.

Lindsy first learned about CASA of Washington County when she heard a presentation about CASA at her Awareness Washington County class. Lindsy said that during the presentation it immediately struck her that this is what she wanted to do. Since starting her first case, Lindsy says that feeling of knowing CASA was the right opportunity for her has gotten even stronger.

Lindsy says she is really looking forward to getting to know all of the other CASA volunteers and learning as much as she can. If you would like to contact Lindsy, her CASA email address is lindsy.kulikowski@casawc.org.

Birthdays

July 5–Amber Colwell

July 12–Lindsy Kulikowski

July 24–Sonja Heath

July 26–Greg Hopkins (Board Member)

August 4–Deidra Gottbrath (Board Member)

The State CASA Conference is **Saturday October 1 in French Lick, IN.** If you would like to attend let Courtney know ASAP so you can get registered. CASA of Washington County is covering the registration fee for all volunteers! **Hours spent at the State Conference will count toward your annual requirement of 12 hours of training!**

IF IT ISN'T IN

Optima™

THEN IT DIDN'T HAPPEN