



CASA/Child Boundaries

1. When a CASA and child are first matched, the focus should be on developing a trusting relationship. During this time, the CASA will maintain strict boundaries between their personal life and the life of the child. Under no circumstances should these boundaries be crossed.
2. However, after no less than a year, and only after getting proper written approval, there are some circumstances under which it may be beneficial *to the advocate child* for the child to have access to very specific areas of a CASAs life. Examples include: meeting children or partners, visiting a CASAs workplace, having access to a CASAs hobby, etc.
3. Advocate children of any age – including NMD's – should never be brought to a CASA's home.
4. To determine if circumstances weigh in favor of this, an email should be drawn up considering each of the following: who, what, where, when, why? Special attention should be given to the 'why' of this as permission will be granted based on the benefit to the advocate child, not the convenience of the CASA. In the case of NMD's, while they are technically adults, they are still in contract with Dependency, so this applies to them as well.
5. This request should be crafted by the CASA requesting permission, and then submitted to their Supervisor. There may be follow up questions to clarify the request.
6. Requests will only be approved when all lines of supervision agree (Mentor/Specialist/Director) that an opportunity is in the best interest of the advocate child. Permission will always be granted in written form.

This will be shared in training so that we communicate transparency about protocol and procedure, and that we are especially clear about expectations.