

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE ILLINOIS  
SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, ILLINOIS

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2001 – 02

WHEREAS, it is the duty of the Juvenile Court to determine what course of action is in the best interests of the minors before it; and

WHEREAS, collecting the most complete information possible on all aspects of a minor's life is essential to the proper determination of what course of action and court order is in the best interests of each minor; and

WHEREAS, providing the judge the most complete information possible on all aspects of a minor's life from a responsible, well-trained individual who is completely independent of all other parties before the Court, which individual is responsible solely to the Court and who will maintain the strictest confidentiality with respect to communications received in the performance of that person's duties, is essential to the proper discharge of the responsibility of the Juvenile Court; and

WHEREAS, the Champaign County Court Appointed Special Advocate Program has served the Juvenile Court of Champaign County with distinction for in excess of three years;

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. Pursuant to section 2-17.1 of the Illinois Juvenile Court Act (705 ILCS 405/2-17.1), the Circuit Court of Champaign County, Illinois has adopted the court appointed special advocacy program as set forth in the Illinois Juvenile Court Act.
2. In any case in which the judge presiding in the Juvenile Court of Champaign County deems it helpful, a court appointed special advocate from the Champaign County Court Appointed Special Advocate program may be appointed to serve in said case at the discretion of the judge presiding.
3. When the judge presiding in a particular case appoints a court appointed special advocate, such judge shall enter a written order substantially as attached hereto.
4. When appointed, the court appointed special advocate shall report his or her findings, recommendations and any other information gathered in the discharge of said advocate's duties to the judge only. Further dissemination of the information gathered and recommendations by the court appointed special advocate shall be made only by the judge pursuant to sections 2-22(2) and 2-28 of the Illinois Juvenile Court Act (705 ILCS 405/2-22(2) and 2-28).

ENTERED: April 12, 2001

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
J. G. Townsend  
Presiding Judge

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, ILLINOIS

IN THE INTEREST OF

Minor.

No. -JA-

ORDER

The Court hereby finds that section 2-17.1 of the Illinois Juvenile Court Act (705 I.L.C.S. 405/2-17.1(1992)), provides for the appointment of a special advocate (hereinafter CASA) for minors who are before the Juvenile Court. The Court further finds that a CASA program has been established in Champaign County, Illinois, and that the services of special advocates selected and trained by such program will help further the best interests of minors who are the subject of abuse, neglect and dependency proceedings in Champaign County, Illinois. The Court further finds that access to juvenile court records by the director of the CASA program in Champaign County and by the special advocates appointed by the Court is essential to performance of their respective responsibilities.

This proceeding being conducted pursuant to the provisions of the Illinois Juvenile Court Act, it is the responsibility of this Court to ascertain, pursue and implement the best interest of the respondent minor. To assist the Court in fulfilling this mandate, the Court is appointing a CASA to investigate, ascertain and pursue the best interests of the respondent minor. The CASA cannot discharge this obligation unless he has complete, current information with regard to the current condition, needs, activities and progress of the respondent minor and parents. To discharge his obligation, the CASA must also have complete, current information concerning the services, including evaluations, referrals, counselling, medical and other treatment and rehabilitative services being afforded the respondent minor and parents and their participation and progress in such services. Therefore, the Court finds that the disclosure of the foregoing information to the Court and to its CASA is necessary to the conduct of these proceedings and to the interest of justice. Because this proceeding and all reports and information generated and received in conjunction therewith are confidential and unavailable to the public, the Court also finds that any harm or potential harm resulting from the disclosure of such information is outweighed by the necessity for the disclosure of such information to the Court and to its CASA.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is appointed as special advocate for the respondent minor(s) herein pursuant to section 2-17.1 of the Illinois Juvenile Court Act (705 I.L.C.S. 405/2-17.1(1992)).
2. \_\_\_\_\_ and Ms. Genevieve Lambert as director of the Champaign County CASA program are granted access to all records and files maintained by the Juvenile Court of Champaign County with respect to this matter pursuant to section 1-8(A)(3) and (C) of the Illinois Juvenile Court Act (705 I.L.C.S. 405/1-8(A)(3) and (C)(1992)).
3. \_\_\_\_\_ and Ms. Genevieve Lambert are to be notified

of all administrative case reviews pertaining to the minor who are the subject of this proceeding.

4. The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, its director, Dr. Jess McDonald and its guardianship administrator, Dana Corman and any successors in office are ordered to make available to the CASA and Ms. Lambert any and all reports, case-notes or other written material and any additional oral information generated with respect to this case and are further ordered to admit said Ms. Lambert and the CASA to all administrative case reviews and all aspects and stages of such reviews conducted in connection with this case and family.
5. Each and every counselor, physician, psychologist, social worker, case manager, visit supervisor, foster parent, family aid specialist, instructor, mentor, advocate, as well as any agency and any employee, agent or other person working in conjunction with any agency acting in cooperation with, under contract with or at the direction, request or referral of DCFS in this case including any such person or agency conducting evaluations or providing any services or treatment to the respondent minor or parents is to supply to the CASA and Court any and all written reports or information requested with regard to the respondent minor(s) and respondent parents.
6. The respondent parents are to execute any and all authorizations for release of information requested by the CASA or Ms. Lambert.
7. The attorney and guardian ad litem is authorized to execute any and all authorizations for release of information pertaining to the respondent minor(s) requested by the CASA.

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ENTER: \_\_\_\_\_  
JUDGE