

The Advocate

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WELCOME!

Introducing The Advocate – a monthly newsletter for CASA of Northeast Oklahoma’s amazing volunteers. Here, you’ll find up-to-the-minute news, hints, tips, and reminders to help improve best-interest child advocacy in northeast Oklahoma.

The goal is bite-size information that takes less than 10 minutes to read and digest. This month, we’ll discuss confidentiality, self-care, and free activities you can do with the children on your case. Our in-service spotlight is a CASA Cultural Crossword puzzle, courtesy of the National CASA Association. Completing it nets you 30 minutes of in-service credit! Find the solution at www.casaneok.org/in-service.

Your feedback is welcomed. Email us at info@casaneok.org with your suggestions for content, topics, and improvements.

CONFIDENTIALITY 101

The main responsibility of a court appointed special advocate is to protect the privacy of the children and families a CASA volunteer has sworn an oath to serve.

Confidentiality is the bedrock of the CASA program. Information comes into the volunteer’s sphere, but it cannot and should not go out without meeting certain tests.

Who gets the information we have and how? With whom is it not appropriate to share information?

WHO GETS THE INFORMATION?

The only appropriate individuals to share confidential information with as a CASA volunteer include: (1) the court; (2) CASA staff; and (3) the Optima database.

HOW?

Information is shared: (1) through a properly filed CASA Report to the Court, which is distributed by CASA staff to all parties to the case; (2) through completion of a contact log in Optima or a conversation with CASA staff; or (3) through a verbal report or testimony provided to the court during a court hearing.

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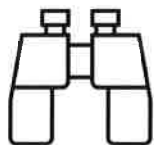


SELF-CARE TIP

Stressed? Try to breathe. Next time you feel anxious, try this: Breathe in through your nose 1, 2, 3. Hold your breath 1, 2, 3. Exhale through your mouth 1, 2, 3. Check in – are you calmer? Repeat as necessary. Take good care of YOU.

Confidentiality is a virtue of the loyal, as loyalty is the virtue of the faithful.

- Edwin Louis Cole



WITH WHOM IS IT INAPPROPRIATE TO SHARE INFORMATION?

It is inappropriate to share information with anyone other than the court or CASA staff. This includes:

- Natural parents
- Foster parents
- Attorneys
- PARB Board Members
- Former CASA staff or former CASA volunteers
- Family

- Friends
- Neighbors

Remember, yours is a position of trust with the court and the CASA program. Check in with your Advocate Coordinator before divulging any information.

And what if you've already breached confidentiality? It's always best to admit it to your AC and then – forgive yourself. Use this information to recommit yourself to confidentiality.

CONFIDENTIALITY 101, Continued...

(NEARLY FREE) FUN WITH KIDS

Children (even you!) will love a "Pooh Party!" What's a Pooh Party, you ask? Go to the library (or the Internet) and find a Winnie-the-Pooh book or story. You'll also need: a quilt or blanket; a teddy bear (bonus if it's an actual Pooh bear!); Dixie cups; disposable plates; graham crackers; honey; and milk or juice.

At the foster home, make a picnic on the floor or around a table. Pour the juice/milk into cups and make honey/graham cracker sandwiches. Read Winnie-The-Pooh together. Each child gets a turn holding and loving Pooh.

This activity is a great icebreaker for building rapport with children new to your caseload. You can also include other children in the foster home who aren't on your caseload! Oh, what fun!



CHILDREN'S BOOK OF THE MONTH

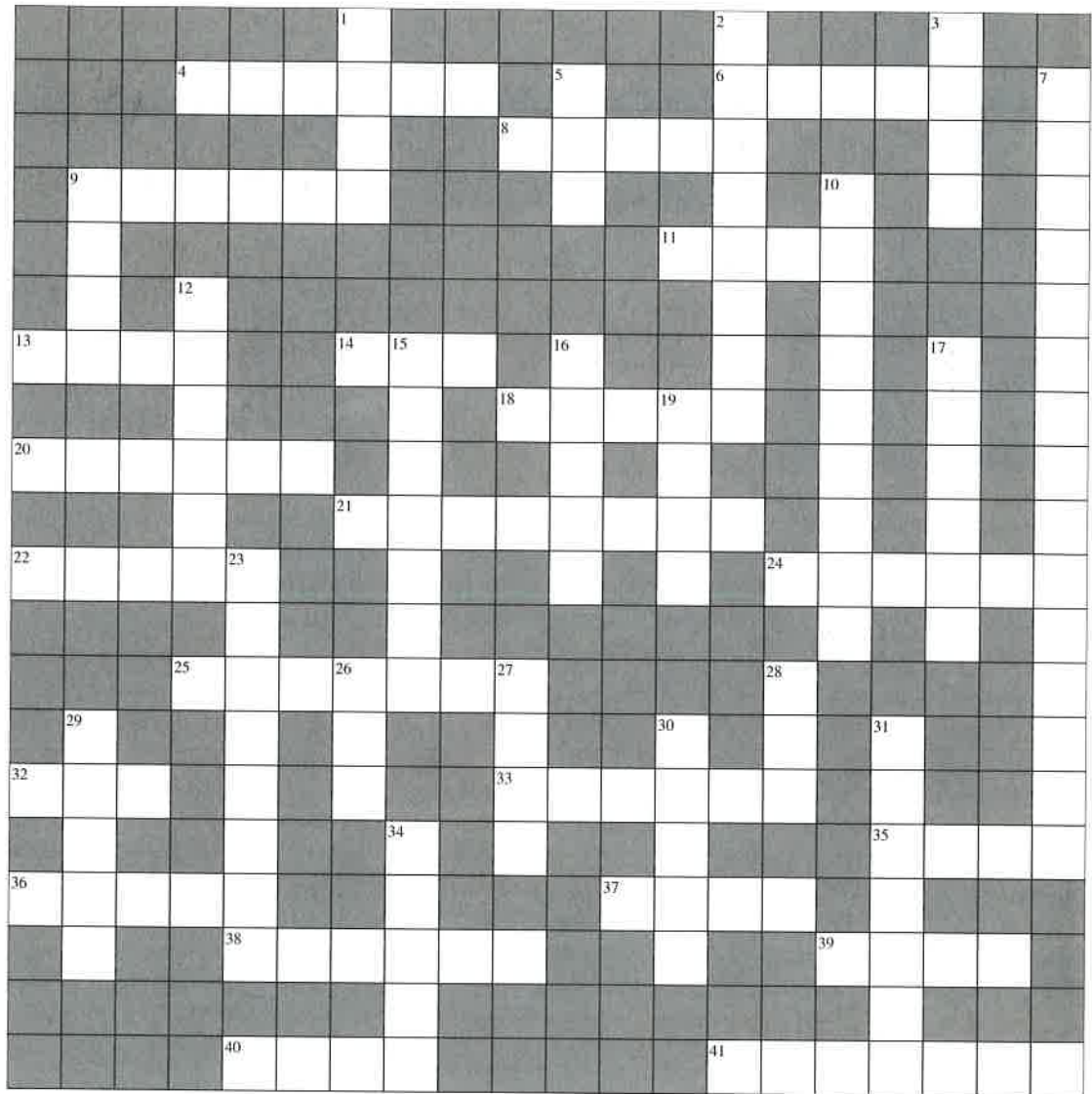
"Interrupting Chicken" by David Ezra Stein is a hilarious send-up of a bedtime story gone terribly wrong. Classics like "Little Red Riding Hood" and "Henny Penny" get new (and much shorter) endings thanks to the thoughtful Chicken, who wants to save these beloved story characters from the fate that awaits them. Children of all ages will enjoy this 2011 winner of the Caldecott Honor. Check it out at your local library!



CASA OF THE MONTH FOR JULY: MALYNDA MOHR

Congratulations to Malynda Mohr, CASA of Northeast Oklahoma's Spotlight Volunteer of the Month for July 2022! Thank you for everything you do to help Change A Child's Story.

CASA Cultural Crossword



ACROSS

- 4. Opposite of expense
- 6. Maltreatment
- 8. A place where justice is administered
- 9. The more things ____, the more they stay the same
- 11. Where they can't turn you away
- 13. Measurable information
- 14. Second most popular acronym related to volunteer advocacy for abused children
- 18. Having a flat or even surface
- 20. Female parent
- 21. Relating to a Spanish-speaking people or culture; synonymous with Latino in some circles
- 22. Nonprofit governing body (for short)
- 24. Complete, whole, undivided, as in a family
- 25. Numerals
- 32. A male child in relation to his parents
- 33. Opposite of foe
- 35. A young woman
- 36. A public officer who decides cases in a court of law
- 37. Gender underrepresented among CASA volunteers
- 38. Discrimination against or intolerance of people of another race
- 39. Cohort; ____ pressure
- 40. State of protection, making provision for; given by parents/guardians
- 41. Elements that figure into a result (2 and 4 are ____ of 8)

DOWN

- 1. Great expectations; Light of ____
- 2. Relating to a country as an organized whole
- 3. Transparent material that forms an image from the rays of light passing through it
- 5. Mother (informal)
- 7. When a population is overrepresented in a particular group
- 9. Acronym related to volunteer advocacy for abused children
- 10. Opposite of temporary
- 12. Male parent
- 15. Bring to a successful end; accomplish
- 16. Recognized or enforced by law
- 17. American ____/Alaska Native
- 19. Door used in leaving
- 23. A female child in relation to her parents
- 26. A young man
- 27. Free from danger, risk or injury
- 28. Father (informal)
- 29. Make a priority, concentrate upon; also used in photography
- 30. 28th state, located in south-central US
- 31. Habitual lack of care
- 34. Caucasian

Solution on page 26.