



**COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE (CASA)
NONMINOR DEPENDENT (NMD) ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

I, [REDACTED], understand that in order to serve as a Court Appointed Special Advocate with Voices for Children, I must follow the policies and procedures outlined by the California Rules of the Court, the National CASA Association, and this agency. The below written policies are intended to serve as a reminder of Voices for Children's policies for children and nonminor dependents (NMDs). **Please note that all VFC policies referencing children/ youth also apply to NMDs.**

Advocating for NMDs

A CASA working with youth turning 18 years of age may have the opportunity to remain an advocate for the youth after becoming a NMD. The NMD will be required to sign a consent waiver enabling the CASA to remain on the case. CASAs should not work with NMDs until obtaining a new court order of appointment for the NMD. The CASA's advocacy supervisor will assist in this process. *See Advocating for NMD policy in VFC P&P manual*

Confidentiality

CASAs must maintain and protect the confidentiality of NMDs just as if they were minors. Any violation of confidentiality may result in termination from the CASA program. *See Confidentiality policy in VFC P&P manual*

Bringing Youth Home

CASAs may not bring NMDs to *any* home or the CASA's place of employment for *any* reason at *any* time. Bringing NMDs to a home is grounds for immediate and final termination from the CASA program. *See Bringing Youth Home policy in VFC P&P manual*

Spending Limit & Gifts

A CASA must limit money spent on outings to a value of \$20 or less for a single child, and \$40 or less for a sibling group. This limit does not include money spent on the CASA. Giving gifts is prohibited and should be approved by the advocacy supervisor. *See Spending Limit and Gifts Policies in VFC P&P manual*

For additional guidance, please see hypothetical scenarios on backside of this document.

Please sign and return this document to your advocacy supervisor.

Name (signature)
Court Appointed Special Advocate

Date

Hypothetical scenarios for CASAs serving NMDs

All Voices for Children policies that apply to CASAs serving children/youth also apply to CASAs who are serving young adults. Young adults who participate in the Extended Foster Care program are sometimes called nonminor dependents (NMDs). We have included a few examples of how some of our policies shape common situations that CASAs encounter while serving NMDs. As always, please contact your Advocacy Supervisor with any questions you may have as your youth transitions to a young adult.

My assigned youth is an NMD who is very eager to get job in the same industry as my profession. Can I introduce them to some of my contacts?

No. The cases are NMDs remain confidential. CASAs cannot introduce NMDs to family members, friends, colleagues, or anyone else. Instead, brainstorm with your Advocacy Supervisor about how to share your professional experiences with your youth without violating confidentiality.

My assigned youth is an NMD who is in desperate need of dental treatment. The procedure the youth needs will take time to be approved and scheduled. My youth is eager to have the procedure completed soon. Can I assist them with making another appointment with a provider I find?

No. Even though NMDs are young adults, the case management support that NMDs receive through the county child welfare agency includes assistance with accessing medical, dental, mental health care, and other health services. Finding a provider independently can prevent or complicate payment and even delay a youth's access to the services they need. If your youth has a time-sensitive need, assist them to explain the urgent nature of the situation to their social worker or work with your Advocacy Supervisor to find a solution.

My assigned youth is an NMD who is struggling with transportation. They have a driver's license. Can I add them to my insurance?

No. CASAs are prohibited by the California Rules of Court and Voices for Children policy from providing youth, including NMDs, with extravagant gifts. A gift is anything of value, including money, goods, or services. Additionally, CASAs cannot take on additional legal responsibilities (such as providing insurance) for the youth they serve.

My assigned youth is an NMD who isn't getting along with their roommates anymore, and I am worried about their safety. Can my NMD stay with me for a day or two while we figure it out?

No. CASA's cannot permit their assigned youth to visit their home for any reason. CASAs cannot have overnight visits of any kind with their youth. CASAs who are concerned for the safety of their assigned NMD should call VFC's emergency helpline at (858) 336-0609. VFC staff are available 24-hours a day, including nights, weekends, and holidays, to assist CASAs with emergencies. VFC staff can assist CASAs with identifying and accessing appropriate resources for youth and with safety planning.