

Vision Statement

The National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association “stands up” for abused and neglected children. CASA of Montana is committed to the ideals represented in the NCASAA vision, as follows:

“Building on our legacy of quality advocacy, we acknowledge the need to understand, respect, and celebrate diversity including race, gender, religion, national origin, ethnicity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, and the presence of a sensory, mental, or physical disability. We also diversity of viewpoints, life experiences, talents, and ideas.

A diverse CASA/GAL network helps us to better understand and promote the well-being of the children we serve. Embracing diversity makes us better advocates by providing fresh ideas and perspectives for problem solving in our multicultural world, enabling us to respond to each child’s unique needs.”

Guiding Principles:

- Ethnic and cultural background influences an individual’s attitudes, beliefs, values, and behaviors.
- Each family’s characteristics reflect adaptations to its primary culture and the majority culture, the family’s unique environment, and the composite of the people and needs within it.
- A child can be best served by a CASA/GAL who is culturally competent and who has personal experience and work experience in the child’s own culture(s).
- To understand a child, a person should understand cultural differences and the impact they have on family dynamics.
- No cultural group is homogeneous; within every group there is great diversity.
- Families have similarities but they are also unique.
- In order to be culturally sensitive to another person or group, it is necessary to evaluate how each person’s culture impact behaviors.

Adapted from “A World of Difference: A Manual for Achieving Greater Inclusion,” NCASAA, 2004.