

## ALICIA'S STORY

CASA was appointed to the case of six-year-old Alicia whose aunt filed a petition in Juvenile Court with allegations of sexual abuse and environmental neglect against Alicia's mother. The mother was diagnosed as bipolar and had suicidal tendencies. The aunt alleged that Alicia was left with strangers and that the home was dirty and filthy, with a roach infestation. The aunt also alleged that the mother's paramour was touching Alicia inappropriately. Alicia had been molested by a female friend of her mother's two years before this petition was filed.

The CASA volunteer investigated the home where the mother, her father, and the paramour resided and found, in fact, that the home was filthy, un-kept, infested with roaches, and that Alicia slept on a mattress in the room with the mother and her paramour, who would engage in sexual acts while Alicia tried to watch television or sleep. Alicia also disclosed to the volunteer that the paramour touched her inappropriately. CASA made a referral through DCS Child Protective Services; however, the Department did not proceed further with the allegations. The CASA volunteer persevered and testified in the court hearing to the extreme conditions of the home and the mother's unwillingness to believe the abuse Alicia experienced at the hands of her paramour. Also, the grandfather had yet to clean up the home or the roach infestation. The Court ordered that Alicia be placed in the legal custody and guardianship of her aunt and that her mother and grandfather have supervised visitation at the home of her aunt.

Alicia is still attending individual counseling and therapy and disclosed the molestation by the paramour in more detail. Thanks to her CASA volunteer, Alicia finally has a safe place to call home where she plays with her poodle and is learning to trust adults again.



**CASA**

Court Appointed Special Advocates  
**FOR CHILDREN**