

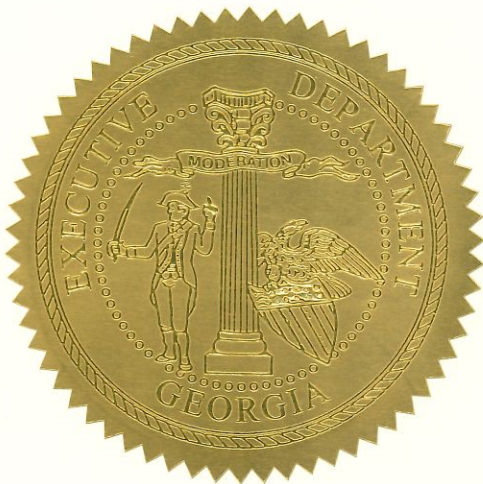
BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES DAY

- WHEREAS:** Georgia Court Appointed Special Advocates (Georgia CASA) strengthens and supports court-sanctioned, affiliate CASA programs that empower community volunteers who advocate for abused or neglected children and contributes to advancements within the child welfare system; and
- WHEREAS:** Since its founding 34 years ago, 44 affiliate CASA organizations have been established in Georgia, and over 30,000 CASA volunteers have advocated with an unwavering commitment for 150,000 children who become involved with the child welfare system through no fault of their own; and
- WHEREAS:** Last year alone, over 2,700 CASA volunteers advocated for nearly 10,000 children in our state's legal custody, providing each child with impartial advocacy that nurtures hope, seeks solutions, and stands in the gap between a challenging present and promising future; and
- WHEREAS:** CASA is central to ensuring that all children who experience abuse or neglect have opportunities to thrive and reach their full potential with the support of permanent connections to family; and
- WHEREAS:** A CASA volunteer is a deeply committed, specially trained individual from the community who is appointed by the juvenile court judge to improve a child's experience in foster care by providing individualized attention, bringing urgency to children's needs throughout their time in state custody, and offering consistency and continuity by helping to connect information among case managers, foster parents, attorneys, and many other stakeholders; and
- WHEREAS:** As an external partner, CASA maximizes resources and support for children and families involved with the child welfare system through increased community involvement and awareness, local and state advocacy efforts, and a more coordinated, compassionate response to child victims and families in crisis; and
- WHEREAS:** The State of Georgia recognizes CASA volunteers for giving selflessly of their time and talents to advocate for the best interests of children in juvenile court dependency proceedings and commends the volunteer board members and staff of both Georgia CASA and the affiliate CASA organizations for their countless contributions made on behalf of Georgia's children; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim February 10, 2022 as COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES DAY in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 28<sup>th</sup> day of January in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Two.



*B. Kemp*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Martha Kippenrich*

CHIEF OF STAFF