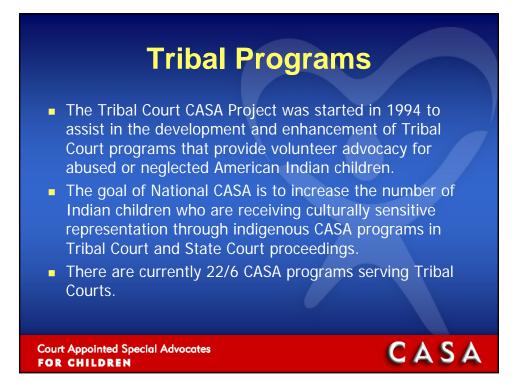


# The Beginning...

- 1977—Judge Soukup in Seattle dreamed of citizen volunteers to advocate for children in dependency court
- He founded the CASA program beginning a nationwide grass roots movement that is over 70,000 strong today
- His vision allowed for lay people to focus solely on a child's best interest

CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates



### **CASA Requirements**

- Appointed by a court judge
- CASA volunteers can be legal parties to a case
- Four responsibilities —interview, advocate, monitor, facilitate
- Full access to all of the child's information without anyone else's authority needed
- Serve until permanency is achieved
- Bound by strict confidentiality
- Supported by professional program staff

CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates

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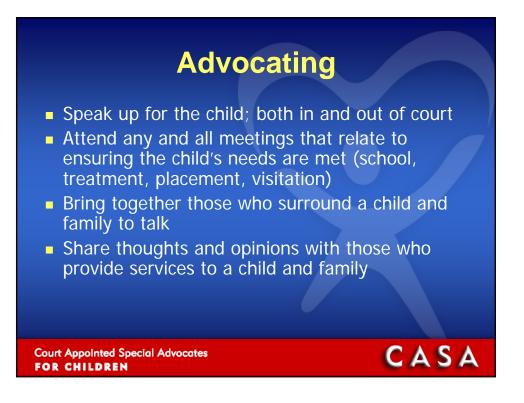


## Interviewing

- Talk to everyone (child, parents, relatives, social workers, teachers, attorneys, therapists, foster parents)
- Read all materials
- Look into relevant history, environment, relationships, and needs of the child
- Know what a child needs to attain a safe and permanent home as quickly as possible

CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates







# CASAs Do Not...

- Provide direct services
- Make referrals
- Supervise visits
- Make placement arrangements
- Provide gifts to the child or the family
- Become a Big Brother/Big Sister or a visiting resource

CASA

 Transport the child or the family without program approval

Court Appointed Special Advocates

