

**JUDICIAL BRANCH
MAINE CASA ADVISORY PANEL**

Type: Standing Committee
Established: 4 M.R.S. § 1505
Chair: Judge Andrew Benson
Report: November 30, annually
Reports to: Maine Supreme Judicial Court

I. Purpose:

Maine Court Appointed Special Advocate (Maine CASA) was established within the Administrative Office of the Courts to provide volunteer lay persons the opportunity to serve as court-appointed special advocates or guardians ad litem under Title 22 Maine Revised Statutes section 4005 in child abuse and neglect cases. 4 M.R.S. § 1501.

The purpose of the Court Appointed Special Advocate Advisory Panel (Advisory Panel) is to set the policy for and monitor Maine CASA in recruiting, training, screening, and overseeing volunteer guardians ad litem appointed in child protection actions. 4 M.R.S. § 1505.

The Advisory Panel supports the vision of Maine CASA that every Maine child has a safe, permanent, and loving home.

II. Activities:

The Advisory Panel may:

- Review and comment on Maine CASA's policies and procedures.
- Identify and support marketing and recruitment efforts.
- Identify additional grant funding sources.
- Identify training and education needs for volunteers.
- Review the annual report to the Maine Supreme Judicial Court (SJC).
- Establish subcommittees to focus on designated issues.

III. Authority:

The Advisory Panel may seek input, suggestions, and recommendations from individuals and groups within and outside the Judicial Branch. The panel may invite consultants to the meeting as needed.

The panel may establish subcommittees to focus on designated issues. The Guardian ad Litem Services Coordinator may seek input, suggestions, and recommendations from individuals and groups within and outside the Judicial Branch and invite consultants to the meetings as needed.

IV. Membership:

The Chief Justice of the SJC appoints members for three-year terms. Members serve at the sole discretion of the Chief Justice. The membership list is attached hereto.

Judge Andrew Benson shall serve as Chair of the Panel.

Kaela L. Jalbert, Esq., Guardian ad Litem Services Coordinator, is appointed as the ex officio consultant to the Advisory Panel.

Caroline Y. Jova, Esq., Family Division Manager, will serve as the liaison for the State Court Administrator.

V. Meetings:

The entire Advisory Panel shall meet as often as is necessary to fulfill its responsibilities, but no less than twice annually. The Chair shall schedule the meetings. Subcommittees will meet as needed. The Guardian ad Litem Services Coordinator will schedule subcommittee meetings. At the discretion of the Chair, a committee member will be appointed to chair the subcommittee meetings or the Guardian ad Litem Services Coordinator will serve as chair.

VI. Reporting:

The Advisory Panel shall report its activities to the SJC annually on or before November 30th of every year.

VII. Committee Duration:

The Advisory Panel will be a Standing Committee of the Judicial Branch. The Committee will cease to exist when Maine CASA ends.

Dated: May 13, 2020

Approved by:

_____/s/_____
Acting Chief Justice Andrew M. Mead
Maine Supreme Judicial Court

**COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE (CASA)
ADVISORY PANEL MEMBERS:**

Hon. Andrew Benson, Chair

Michael Kearney of Portland) until January 1, 2021

Sara Murphy of South Portland) until June 7, 2021

Mark Moran of Bangor)
Delia Saintcross of Portland) until January 1, 2022
F. Mark Terison , Esq. of Falmouth)
Toby Jandreau, Esq. of Fort Kent)

Erika Bristol, Esq. of Auburn)
Sarah Glidden, Esq. of Lyman)
Ally Keppel of Brunswick) until January 1, 2023
Barbara Childs of North Waterboro)
Lindsay Duranceau of Saco)

CONSULTANT

Kaela L. Jalbert, Esq., Guardian ad Litem Services Coordinator

LIAISON FOR THE STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR

Caroline Y. Jova, Esq., Family Division Manager

SJC LIAISON

Associate Justice Ellen A. Gorman