

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 466

BY REPRESENTATIVE GISCLAIR

CHILDRENS CODE: Provides relative to authority granted to CASA volunteers

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact Children's Code Articles 424.2 , 424.4(B), 616(C), and 616(C) which
3 was amended and reenacted to become 616(D) by Act No. 348 of the 2017 Regular
4 Session of the Legislature, relative to court appointed special advocates; to provide
5 authority to access the child's home; to provide relative to the attendance of certain
6 hearings and meetings; to provide for screenings of CASA volunteers, staff
7 members, and board of director members; to provide for contingent effective dates;
8 and to provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. Children's Code Articles 424.2 and 424.4(B) are hereby amended and
11 reenacted to read as follows:

12 Art. 424.2. CASA; order of assignment

13 To accomplish the assignment of a CASA volunteer, the court shall issue an
14 order of assignment which shall grant the CASA volunteer the authority to review
15 all relevant documents pursuant to Article 424.6 and to interview all parties and
16 witnesses involved in the proceeding in which he is appointed. The order shall grant
17 the CASA volunteer the authority to access the home in which a child is placed, and
18 may do so unannounced if access is needed in order to assess safety concerns.

19 * * *

20 Art. 424.4. CASA; notice

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 466 Original

2018 Regular Session

Gisclair

Abstract: Grants authority to CASA volunteers to access a child's home and to attend all administrative review hearings and family team meetings related to the case, and provides for the screening of CASA staff members or members of the board of directors.

Present law (Ch.C. Art. 424.2) allows CASA to review relevant documents and to interview parties and witnesses involved in the proceeding.

Proposed law retains present law and grants authority to CASA volunteers to access the child's home to evaluate the home for safety concerns.

Present law (Ch.C. Art. 424.4) requires CASA volunteers to be notified of all administrative review hearings related to the case.

Proposed law retains present law and requires that CASA volunteers be allowed to attend all family team meetings as well as administrative review hearings related to the case.

Present law (Ch.C. Art. 616) allows a court to screen individuals applying to work as a court appointed special advocate for any justified reports of abuse or neglect.

Proposed law retains present law and adds CASA program staff members and board of director members to those individuals who may be screened by a court for any justifiable reports of abuse or neglect.

(Amends Ch.C. Arts. 424.2, 424.4(B), 616(C), and (616(C) which was amended and reenacted to become Ch.C. Art. 616(D) by Act 348 of the 2017 R.S.))