

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 320 (HB 466)

2018 Regular Session

Gisclair

Existing law allows the court appointed special advocate program (CASA) volunteer to review relevant documents and to interview parties and witnesses involved in the proceeding and requires that CASA volunteers be notified of all administrative review hearings related to the case. New law authorizes the court to grant the CASA volunteer access to the home in which a child is placed and requires that CASA volunteers be allowed to attend all family team meetings as well as administrative review hearings related to the case, unless the parent objects.

Existing law allows a court to screen individuals applying to work as a court appointed special advocate for any justified reports of abuse or neglect. New law 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, if any such individuals have contact with children served by CASA.

Prior law allowed information from investigations of reports of child abuse or neglect that are inconclusive to be disclosed, with the applicant's written consent, to evaluate an applicant to be a CASA volunteer. New law repeals prior law, effective upon adoption of rules by the Dept. of Children and Family Services.

Effective August 1, 2018.

(Amends Ch.C. Arts. 424.2, 424.4(B), 616(C), (D), and (F))