

10.5.2 Differences Between CRB and CASA Volunteers

Citizen Review Board	CASA
<p>Mandated by state law to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review cases of all children in state’s custody • Make recommendations to judge • Collect data • Advocate on systems level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointed by judge as an officer of the court in a specific case to speak for the best interests of a child • Typically a CASA volunteer is appointed to 1 or 2 cases • CASAs are the “eyes and ears” of the court
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statewide Advisory Committee made up of representatives from over 35 local Citizen Review Boards, plus 3 public members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each of the local programs has a Board of Directors (except Albuquerque, which is part of the district court) • Each program operates within State and National CASA standards • There is a statewide NM CASA Program Council
<p>Program Administration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Office (6 Staff) • 5 Regional Specialists located throughout the state • Over 180 Volunteers on 35+ Local Boards 	<p>Program Administration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Network (1 Staff) • 17 independent local programs (staff in each) • 800 trained Volunteers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a forum for parties involved in case • Gathers information • Reviews progress in case • Collects data for use in advocacy efforts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets with individual parties involved in case • Gathers information • Monitors case and case plan • Guides child(ren) through the court system • Promotes communication between agencies on child(ren)’s behalf • Accesses community resources for child
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides reports on individual cases for judge and other parties (CYFD staff, tribal staff, attorneys, CASA volunteers) • Provides data used by CRB’s Statewide Advisory Committee and other advocates to advocate for children and families • Makes recommendations to Legislature, Governor, Judicial System, Children, Youth & Families Department 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocates for child(ren)’s best interests in court, with providers, with CYFD, etc. • Provides an independent voice for a child(ren)’s best interests • Makes written and oral reports to judge and all parties on a specific case.
<p>Governed by Citizen Substitute Care Review Act, §32A-8-1</p>	<p>Governed by Children’s Court Rule 10-121</p>

Source: New Mexico Child Abuse & Neglect Citizen Review Board, *Report & Recommendations on New Mexico’s Abused & Neglected Children*, Legislative Report, January 2000, chart updated October 2007.