

## Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings

[Previous][Next]

§3-830.

- (a)
  - (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.
  - (2) “Advocate” or “C.A.S.A.” means a Court-Appointed Special Advocate.
  - (3) “Program” means a Court-Appointed Special Advocate service that is created in a county with the support of the court for that county to provide trained volunteers whom the court may appoint to:
    - (i) Provide the court with background information to aid it in making decisions in the child’s best interest; and
    - (ii) Ensure that the child is provided appropriate case planning and services.
- (b)
  - (1) There is a Court-Appointed Special Advocate Program.
  - (2) The purpose of the Program is to provide volunteers whose primary purpose is to ensure the provision of appropriate service and case planning consistent with the best interests of a child who is the subject of:
    - (i) A CINA proceeding;
    - (ii) A custody and guardianship proceeding under § 3-819.2 of this subtitle; or
    - (iii) A guardianship review proceeding under Title 5, Subtitle 3 of the Family Law Article.
  - (3) The Administrative Office of the Courts:
    - (i) Shall administer the Program;
    - (ii) Shall report annually to the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly regarding the operation of the Program; and
    - (iii) May adopt rules governing the implementation and operation of the Program including funding, training, selection, and supervision of volunteers.
- (c) The Governor may include funds in the budget to carry out the provisions of this section.
- (d) An advocate or a member of the administrative staff of the Program is not

liable for an act or omission in providing services or performing a duty on behalf of the Program, unless the act or omission constitutes reckless, willful, or wanton misconduct or intentionally tortious conduct.

[Previous][Next]