

AUG 2022

# CASA C RNER



## UPCOMING COURT DATES

### IBERIA PARISH

August 08, 2022  
August 24th, 2022

### ST. MARTIN PARISH

August 19, 2022

### ST. MARY PARISH

August 29th, 2022

## CASA BIRTHDAYS

Rhonda James - August 16

Lisa George - August 31

## ARE YOU A MANDATED REPORTER?

During your CASA training you may have learned that **CASA Advocates are mandated reporters**. But what exactly do mandated reporters do? Who is able to confide in them, and what are the steps to making a report to DCFS?

Don't worry, we've answered all these questions in this month's article! Not only will you learn all the steps of mandated reporting, but you'll also learn who else is a mandated reporter too!

# School Supplies Donations



## CASA of the 16th JDC

is now accepting **ANY** and **ALL** school supplies! Any donations can be dropped off at the CASA office located at:

**121 W. Pershing St.  
New Iberia, LA 70562**

Please call **(337) 551-4125** if you have any questions.

## ITEMS YOU NEVER THOUGHT WE'D NEED!

- kindermats (1"x19"x45")
- kids' blankets or beach towels (for naptime)
- earbuds/headphones (for chromebooks)
- baby wipes
- play doh, modeling clay, sidewalk chalk
- multiplication cards
- uniforms, spiral notebooks, binders + dividers, vinyl pocket folders w prongs, stationary, colors + markers, coloring books, index cards, sticky notes, etc.



**VISIT CASA OF THE 16TH JDC ON FACEBOOK FOR OUR AMAZON WISHLIST!**  
**IBERIA PARISH SCHOOL SUPPLIES LIST** [https://www.iberiaschools.org/313531\\_2](https://www.iberiaschools.org/313531_2)





# HAPPY CASAVERSARY!



TERRI  
THOMPSON

Every day we have  
with you...



LEAH  
COWIE

...is another day  
to wear a smile!



# BACK TO SCHOOL MONTH

LA DFCS Reporting #

855-452-5437

Across the country our little ones (or big ones) are once again returning to the classroom. Some dread it, others jump with excitement; but whether a child is a new student or a returning one, the most important aspect of going back to school is a child's safety.

Mandated reporters are **members of designated professions who are mandated by law to report child maltreatment, as they have frequent contact with children.** While each state may have a different list of designated members, the professionals most commonly mandated to report across the states include but are not limited to: **social workers, school personnel, health-care workers, mental health professionals, child care providers, medical examiners/coroners, law enforcement officers,** and, of course, **Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs).** A mandated report is required when there is cause to believe that **a child's physical/mental health or welfare is endangered as a result of abuse or neglect, or that abuse or neglect was a contributing factor in a child's death.**

There may be certain times when school personnel are not currently aware of abuse or neglect in a student's household, as children tend to stray from confiding in adults in fear of getting themselves or their friend in trouble. However, in the event that a child discloses such information to you, what is the proper protocol of reporting child abuse/neglect, ?

# IF A CHILD'S SPEAKS TO YOU

LA DFCS Reporting #

**855-452-5437**

If a child reports abuse to you, it is very important that you listen without expressing anger or disbelief.

Children first need to know that they are believed and the abuse is not their fault. Listen attentively and ask only open-ended questions like, **"Then what happened?"**

If a child is disclosing information to you:

- Minimize the number of questions you ask
- Avoid the use of leading questions by asking only open-ended questions
- Don't try to get all the details
- Believe them and thank them for telling you

**Open-ended Questions:** "Tell me more about that," OR "I'm not sure I understand, can you explain what happened?"

**AVOID Leading or Close-ended Questions:** "Did your dad give you that bruise?" "Were you hurt by someone in your family?" "Why didn't you stop them?"

Most states maintain a toll-free telephone number for receiving reports of abuse or neglect. Reports may be made anonymously to most of these reporting numbers, but some States find it helpful to their investigations to know the identity of the reporters.

# MAKING A REPORT TO DCFS

LA DFCS Reporting #

**855-452-5437**

**As for the State of Louisiana, all calls made are confidential, and the toll-free number is available**

**24/7.** While a report must include the name and address of the reporter, DCFS shall not disclose identifying information concerning an individual who initiated a report or complaint of alleged child abuse/neglect, unless required by a court order if the court finds reason to believe that the reporter knowingly made a false report (**Rev. Stat. § 46:56(F)(8)(b)**).

If you are unable to speak to a CASA or someone through the Louisiana DCFS reporter line, or would like to speak to school personnel instead, a report can be made to: **teachers or teacher assistants, teacher's aides, principals, school staff members, coaches, and bus drivers.** These designated mandated reporters are required to then immediately forward your report to Louisiana DCFS, where trained social workers determine if the reported information constitutes a report of child abuse/neglect. By law, all reports made orally by mandated reporters must be followed by a written report to DCFS **within 5 days** to the local child protection unit of the Louisiana DCFS or, if necessary, to the local law enforcement.

Back to school season can be scary for some. Mandated reporters can help make students' environments as safe as possible by giving them a comfortable space where they can share their troubles if needed.



# WORKS CITED

**Louisiana Departemnet of Children & Family Services,  
Report Abuse/Neglect:**

<https://www.dcfslouisiana.gov/page/556>

**Child Welfare Information Gateway,  
Mandatory Reporters of Child Abuse & Neglect:**

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/manda.pdf>

**Mandatory Reporting Requirements: Children Louisiana**

[https://apps.rainn.org/policy/policy-state-laws-export.cfm?  
state=Louisiana&group=4](https://apps.rainn.org/policy/policy-state-laws-export.cfm?state=Louisiana&group=4)

**Prevent Child Abuse Georgia**

**Mandated Reporting: Frequently Asked Questions**

[https://abuse.publichealth.gsu.edu/files/2021/07/Mandated-Reporter-  
QA\\_Final-2021.pdf](https://abuse.publichealth.gsu.edu/files/2021/07/Mandated-Reporter-QA_Final-2021.pdf)

## Follow Our Social Medias



CASA of the 16th JDC



CASA16thJDC



CASA Sixteenth JDC Inc





Head to [louisianacasa.org/news-events](https://www.louisianacasa.org/news-events) to read about

# 5 TIPS TO PREPARE FOSTER YOUTH FOR BACK TO SCHOOL

**ARTICLE LINK:**

<https://www.louisianacasa.org/post/5-tips-to-prepare-for-back-to-school-for-foster-children>



# WHAT "BACK TO SCHOOL" MEANS FOR FOSTER YOUTH



<https://www.louisianacasa.org/post/what-back-to-school-means-for-foster-youth>

[LOUISIANACASA.ORG/NEWS-EVENTS](https://www.louisianacasa.org/news-events)



LEARN IT!  
=>



**Picture 1:** Young girl bagging fruit.

## Federal Food Assistance program may help prevent child abuse: Study

Read more at  
[louisianacasa.org/news-events](https://louisianacasa.org/news-events)



# PAIRINGS

## *for a Purpose*

AUG  
12th,  
2022

### About The Event

CASA of Terrebonne is pleased to announce their inaugural "Pairings for a Purpose" event on Friday, August 12th, 2022 at the Bayou Terrebonne Distillery from 6-10 pm. Please join us for a fun evening to eat, drink and support children in foster care. There will be live entertainment, signature cocktails paired with local food delights, and an auction.



### Location & Time

8043 W Main St, Houma, LA  
70360 @ 6:00PM

### Tickets

Tickets for the event are \$75.00 per person. Sponsorship levels are available.

<https://www.louisianacasa.org/event-details/pairings-for-a-purpose>



985-876-0250



[amerlose@casaofterrebonne.org](mailto:amerlose@casaofterrebonne.org)





GOD



grant

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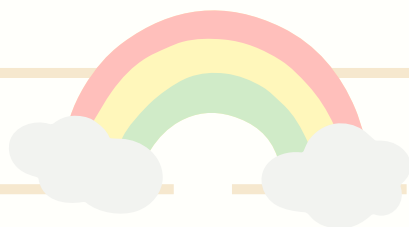
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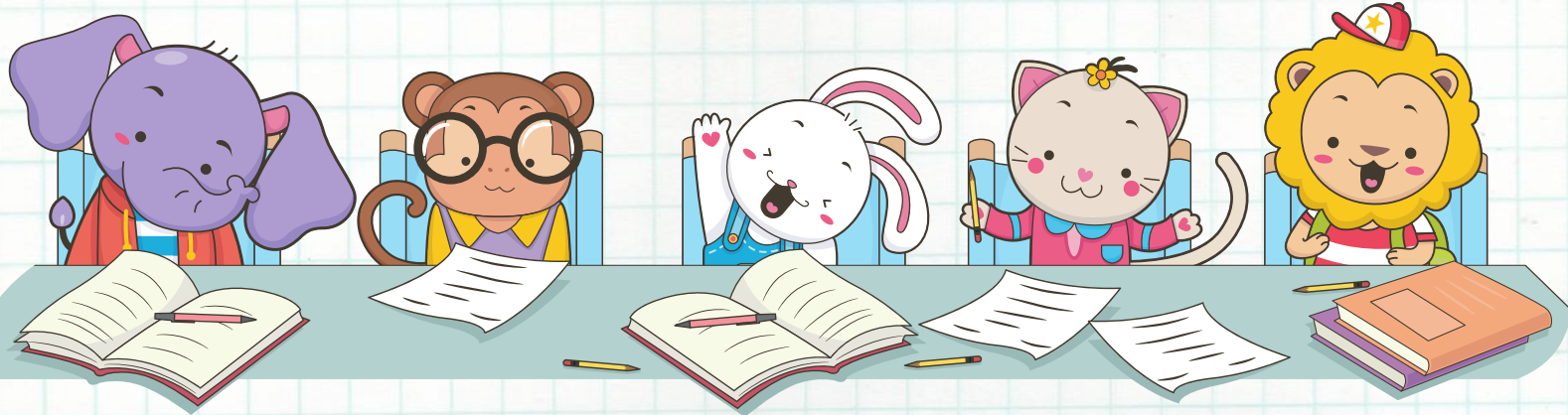


WISDOM

to KNOW the

DIFFERENCE





# CASA OF THE MONTH

## THERESA BURLEIGH

I come from a big family and have always loved being around and working with children. I thought about being a teacher, but after high school, felt called to enter a Carmelite monastery. While there, the Sisters helped me to realize a strong desire to minister to young people. I came home and began substitute teaching at St. Michael's school in Crowley, where I am now working as a Catechist for the church.

While in the monastery, a man came to visit and I learned that he and his wife were foster parents. **This really inspired me!** I had also worked at a camp the past summer, and one of the directors was a foster mom. Yet another moment of inspiration! I knew I wanted to become involved in foster care in some way. Not long after the camp, I came across an advertisement for CASA, prayed about it, and decided to volunteer. **I'm so glad I did!** Learning what these children go through is, of course, very heartbreaking; but it's worth it when you start seeing things break through for them. We may not be able to change every difficult situation, but **we can help to change a child's perspective and hope for the future.** I encourage others to become a CASA because seeing firsthand the look of hope in a child's eyes when they find someone who cares about them and is working for their best interest, is unmatched. Some great advice comes from my Uncle Al, who taught me the Serenity Prayer.

## CASA'S WITH CHILDREN WITH JULY BIRTHDAYS

Jerry Gonzalez - 1 child (Aug 7th)

Lisa George - 2 children (Aug 16th)

Tom Zaunbrecher - 1 child (Aug 27th)

**PLEASE contact the office about your party in a bag.**

## NEXT BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, **August 9th** at 5:30 pm in the Court House Annex Conference Room.

## FRIENDLY REMINDER

Learn more about mandated reporting at: **[www.lcwta.org](http://www.lcwta.org)**