



Announcements

Welcome Diamond!

We are excited to announce that we have hired a new Case Supervisor, Diamond King. Diamond recently completed her Masters in Family and Human Development while also working for Lincoln Families assisting families in gaining access to public and private resources. Welcome Diamond!

2019 Advocate Appreciation Party

We want to celebrate your hard work and dedication! The 2019 Advocate Appreciation Party will be on Monday, October 21st, 2019 from 6-8pm at Cioppino's. Feel free to bring a plus one. [RSVP](#) now!

Save the Date: 2019 Youth Holiday Party

We are gearing up for our annual Youth Holiday Party! The 2019 Youth Holiday party will be on Saturday, December 7th from 11am-2pm at DLA Piper. The youth holiday party is often the only holiday celebration a

young person in foster care may have. CASA youth consistently share feedback about how special this annual event is to them. It's a great opportunity to connect with peers and siblings in a fun and festive setting!

Youth Holiday Gift Requests

It's that time of year again to start collecting your youth's holiday gift requests! Please discretely ask your youth what they would like for the holidays this year and submit their requests [here](#). SFCASA will make an attempt to fulfill all requests that come in, independent of holiday party attendance! Requests are due by **October 10th**. Contact [Maggie Swanson](#) if you have questions.

Update from Renée Espinoza

Greetings CASA volunteers,

I want to thank you for your patience and understanding as we dealt with the threatening note earlier this month. I also want to thank and acknowledge those of you who reached out to share their support and concerns you may have had.

I also want to take this opportunity to provide you with an update on our process to ensure the safety of staff, volunteers and guests. We researched our current cases and reached out to CASAs individually where we thought there might be safety concerns. The police came, took a report and confiscated the note. I have been in contact with Judge Wiley, Supervising Judge of the Unified Family Court. Judge Wiley notified the Sheriff's deputy overseeing security at the courthouse.

At our office, we had a combination/buzzer lock installed on our front office door. This will allow the door to remain locked from the outside at all times with the ability for guests to be buzzed in. We have ordered video cameras, with one to be installed at the door and other cameras around the perimeter of the building. At the recommendation of another county's CASA program, we have removed the staff photos from the "Our

Team” page on our website. We have had two safety-specific staff meetings to engage all staff in creating solutions. In the coming months we will be developing more robust safety procedures and seeking de-escalation training for CASAs and staff. If you have any recommendations on de-escalation trainers, please do send the information to me.

If you have any safety concerns, please let your case supervisor and/or me know immediately. We may never know who left the note, and I do hope this is a one-time incident. Please be assured that I, the board, and staff prioritize your safety and the safety of our youth and families.

With gratitude,

[Renée](#)



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