

# FAMILY/CHILD CONNECTIONS



COLLABORATIVE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Action taken by CASA to support, build or strengthen connections for the child and/or parents.

## WHAT IS A CONNECTION?

Activities that, through the work of the CASA volunteer, occurred between a child and their network member/s, and/or parent and their network member/s, such as phone calls, email, letter, text, video calls or visits. Network members may include kin, fictive kin, siblings and people from other areas of support for the child or family. Activities can happen in person, virtually or via correspondence.

## HOW DO I ENTER THE INFORMATION?

Select: Family/Child Connection    Subject line: Type of connection    Notes: Describe the connection type

Only the one instance of connection advocacy that the CASA volunteer arranged is entered into Optima. If the connection activity involves a repeating action (i.e.: multiple phone calls), it is only logged one time because the CASA volunteer was only involved in the initial plan.

## IS THIS A CONNECTION ACTIVITY?

### YES (if connection plans were developed by CASA)

- Weekly phone calls with child and their grandmother
- Aunt drives mom to drug testing
- Gifts mailed from support people to child for their birthday
- Letters written from paternal uncle to child
- Teacher eating lunch with child for support
- AA or NA support group people calling dad weekly
- Sibling visits for child
- Mentor or Big Brother/Sister assigned to teen that will be involved long term
- Creating a calendar of support for child
- Church group providing dinners to mom weekly
- Reaching out via phone, text or email to family members and getting a commitment to engage them with child/parent
- Starting phone calls with father who has not been in the child's life previously

### NO

- Phone calls with a child and their mom (that are not a new occurrence)
- Counseling services ordered for mom
- Domestic violence counseling
- CPS court-ordered visits with dad
- CPS service plan for child
- Searching for family with no contact, or contacting only to determine who they are and not engaging them

Generally, support through professional services as part of the service plan is not a connection activity. Support through a network community group who become involved through the advocacy/efforts of CASA is a counted activity.

Any questions? Please contact your CFE Coach.