

# Research and Evaluation Protocol

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# Strategic Evidence Plan



# Strategic Framework Alignment

## NATIONAL CASA ASSOCIATION STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK SUMMARY

**MISSION:** National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association, together with its state and local members, supports and promotes court-appointed volunteer advocacy so every abused or neglected child in the United States can be safe, have a permanent home, and the opportunity to thrive.

**VISION:** A world where every abused or neglected child is given the opportunity to thrive in a safe and loving home.

**INNOVATIVE-  
INTEGRATED  
FUNDRAISING**

**THOUGHT  
LEADERSHIP**

**OPERATIONAL  
EXCELLENCE**

**COLLABORATIVE  
IMPACT**

**BRAND AND  
ISSUE  
AWARENESS**

**Strong Support to the Programs**

**Effective Partnerships with State Organizations**

**Planning, Research and Analysis**

**Platform for Financial Sustainability**

**Governance Effectiveness**



Mission/Vision



Strategic Themes



Enabling Focus Areas

# Strategic Plan Primary Outcomes

## **Becoming**

an outcomes-driven,  
evidence-based  
intervention or program.

## **Evaluating**

programs, projects and  
initiatives for efficacy and  
outcomes.

## **Serving**

100% of the children and youth eligible with  
exceptional outcomes and impacts

## **Volunteer Retention Study**

Understand why volunteers stay and leave

## **Judges' Perspective Study**

Understanding and defining the CASA/GAL intervention in local courts

## **Evidence of Effectiveness**

# Policy Purpose





# Implications

**Though independent entities throughout the nation, CASA/GAL organizations are viewed as a single network**

- Results of research that one member is a party to may have possible implications, not just for that entity, but for us.....

# ALL

- That goes for the good, bad and inaccurate results



# National CASA/GAL Protocol

**Calls for:**

- **COMMUNICATION**
- **COORDINATION**
- **COLLABORATION**

In order for National CASA/GAL to provide technical assistance and support

*Protocol is part of Toolkit*

# Applicability

## Who does this apply to?

**Any representative or organization acting on behalf of a CASA/GAL member organization that is:**

- contemplating being a party to an agreement,
- already a party to an agreement, or
- exploring the option of seeking grant or other funding to be a party to an agreement, or
- being approached or required to be involved

**...to undertake any research study, including academic study projects, that relates to work or activities generally conducted by the CASA/GAL network**

Who doesn't this apply to?

**Auxiliary organizations should not engage in research studies** for work or activities related to support of a CASA/GAL state organization or local program.

Auxiliary organizations exist to advance and support the work of another organization. Within the CASA/GAL Network, auxiliaries can be a key support component for state organizations and local programs that are unable to raise funds directly.

# Types of Projects

# Research vs. Testing Project

When projects do not require sophisticated analysis, the universities may use a “testing agreement” or “fee-for-service agreement.”

# Research vs. Testing Project

*For research projects, the university has more responsibility to define the questions and results, which requires more analysis. For testing projects, the client defines more specific questions and methodologies.*

Comparative Example:

***Research project:*** The CASA/GAL programs provides all of its case data to the university and asks them to determine how CASA/GAL volunteers influence the lives of the children they serve.

***Testing project:*** The CASA/GAL program provides all of its case data to the university and asks it to calculate how many children/youth finish high school and compare that rate to graduation rates for the general population and all children in foster care in their county/service area.



# Examples

- Study sponsored by state child welfare agency to assess impact of CASA/GAL volunteers on child outcomes
- Study sponsored by private foundation to assess profiles of the most successful volunteers across multiple types of volunteer organizations
- Study sponsored by CASA/GAL funder to assess the impact CASA/GAL programs have on child welfare agencies
- Transfer of anonymized child-level data to a PhD student researching the child welfare system
- Graduate student seeking to evaluate permanency outcomes of children/youth served by CASA/GAL volunteer

# Publication

*While universities generally will push to have the right to publish the results of clients' projects, clients can structure the projects and the agreements to minimize the risk.*

- Take the lead role in designing the study, the hypothesis, and the methodology.
- Explicitly designate the data generated in the project as confidential and prohibit the university from publishing any confidential information.
- Ask for the rights to review and approve any proposed publications relating to the project
  - Remove any confidential information
- Ask for the right to have any article include a statement, of your choosing, that identifies your role in the project and whether you agree with the contents of the article.

# Publication

Universities will likely retain a right to publish any non-confidential information learned as a result of the project.

However, if the client **designs the project to limit the amount of non-confidential information**, any article published by university personnel likely would not reveal any information that the client would consider sensitive or negative

# Contracting Tips



# Publication by the University

- Structure the agreement as a fee-for-service testing agreement, not a research collaboration agreement.
- Make explicit that all of the data generated from the project is confidential.
- Prohibit inclusion of confidential information in any publications by the university.
- Include review rights for any proposed publications to require approval by client.
- Allow client to identify its role in the study and whether it agrees with the contents of the article.

# Publication by You

- Allows you to publish the results of the project or underlying data.
- Allows you to credit the university and the responsible staff for their work on the project

# Intellectual Property

- Specify that you own the intellectual property rights in your data and the results of the project.
- You generally should not worry about patent language in contracts.



# Confidentiality

- Designate all data provided by the CASA/GAL program as confidential.
- Also designate all results of the project as confidential.



# Toolkit



# National CASA/GAL Support

## RESOURCES

- Research and Evaluation Protocol
  - Contracting Terms and Tips
- Agreement Exemplar



## Next Steps

Available on Member Portal  
(provide link once available)

# Questions and Wrap Up

*Thank you for your leadership and service!*