

## **Practice Standards**

December, 2012

### **Section XXIII, Representation of CASA/GAL in Dependent/Neglect Cases**

#### **XXIII. REPRESENTATION OF COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES AND GUARDIANS AD LITEM IN DEPENDENT/NEGLECT CASES**

##### **GOALS:**

- A. To actively, professionally advocate for the court appointed special advocate (CASA) or guardian *ad litem* (GAL) appointed to represent the best interest of the child in an abuse/neglect (DN) proceeding.**
- B. To serve expressed wishes of the CASA/GAL and be independent from other participants in the litigation, including the child's parents or guardians, and the child's attorney, in representing the CASA/GAL.**
- C. To exercise professional judgment in carrying out the duties assigned and to participate fully in the case on behalf of the CASA/GAL.**
- D. To recognize that children are at a critical stage of development and that skilled advocacy on behalf of the CASA/GAL will positively impact the course of the child's life.**