

CHAPTER 1
FUNCTIONS AND PROVISIONS OF THE CHILD ADVOCACY BOARD
[Prior to 3/23/88, see Foster Care Review Board[445] Ch 1]

Chapter rescission date pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.7: 8/1/31

489—1.1(237) Definitions. The following definitions apply to the rules of the child advocacy board:

“Approved” means that the applicant has met the requirements to become a court appointed special advocate.

“CASA volunteer” or *“CASA”* or *“advocate”* means a person who is duly trained and approved by the department of health and human services for participation in the court appointed special advocate program and appointed by the court to represent the interest of a child in any judicial proceeding to which the child is a party or is called as a witness or relating to any dispositional order involving the child resulting from the proceeding. Unless otherwise directed by a court, the duties of a court appointed special advocate with respect to a child are pursuant to Iowa Code section 237.24.

“Case permanency plan” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 232.2(6).

“Coach” or *“CASA coach”* means a duly approved court appointed special advocate volunteer who has received additional training to assist the coordinator by overseeing facets of the court appointed special advocate’s case work.

“Court appointed special advocate” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 232.2(12).

“Family” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 237.15(4).

“Fictive kin” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 232.2(24).

“Person or court responsible for the child” means the department, including but not limited to the department, agency, or individual who is the guardian of a child by court order issued by the juvenile or district court and has the responsibility of the care of the child, or the court having jurisdiction over the child.

“State board” means the child advocacy board created pursuant to Iowa Code section 237.16.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 17A.3, 237.15, and 237.16.

[ARC 0344D, IAB 6/10/26, effective 8/1/26]

489—1.2(237) Membership and term.

1.2(1) The state board is created within the department. Membership and terms of appointment are detailed in Iowa Code section 237.16(1).

1.2(2) The state board shall meet as necessary, as set forth in Iowa Code section 237.16(2).

a. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the members. When a quorum is present, a position is carried by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members present.

b. Minutes of state board meetings are available on the department’s website.

c. Notice of each meeting shall be given pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 21.

d. When the chairperson of the state board determines that a special or electronic meeting is required, the meeting shall be held in accordance with Iowa Code section 21.4 or 21.8.

e. Persons wishing to appear before the state board shall submit the request to the state board office not less than ten days prior to the meeting. Presentations may be made at the discretion of the chairperson and only upon matters appearing on the agenda. Persons wishing to submit written material should do so at least ten days in advance of the scheduled meeting to ensure that state board members have adequate time to receive and evaluate the material.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 17A.3, 237.16, and 237.18.

[ARC 0344D, IAB 6/10/26, effective 8/1/26]

489—1.3(237) Leadership.

1.3(1) The director ensures adequate leadership, oversight of programs, and ongoing administration of the state board’s activities and of the court appointed special advocate program. The director employs,

discharges, trains, and supervises foster care review and court appointed special advocate program employees.

1.3(2) The department will:

a. Administer funds necessary for operations of foster care reviews and the court appointed special advocate program.

b. Develop and implement policies and procedures needed to implement requirements of federal law and regulations and state law and administrative rules.

c. Develop and recommend administrative rules for promulgation by the state board as needed to govern the operation of the state board, foster care reviews, and the court appointed special advocate program.

d. Ensure training is provided for state board members, court appointed special advocates and coaches, and any other volunteers supporting the state board's programs.

e. Ensure that relationships are developed and maintained with judges, juvenile court referees, local departments, juvenile court services, and advocacy groups.

f. Coordinate efforts to ensure community awareness of the state board and the court appointed special advocate program.

g. Work closely with allied agencies and associations to ensure that efforts relating to the state board and the court appointed special advocate program are coordinated and consistent.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 17A.3 and 237.18(5).

[ARC 0344D, IAB 6/10/26, effective 8/1/26]

489—1.4(237) Foster care registry.

1.4(1) *Placement.* The state board shall establish a registry of the placements of all children receiving foster care as set forth in Iowa Code section 237.17.

This subrule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 17A.3 and 237.17.

1.4(2) *Confidentiality of records.* The state board, court appointed special advocates and coaches, and child advocacy employees shall adhere to the confidentiality requirements established in Iowa Code section 237.21.

This subrule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 17A.3 and 237.21.

[ARC 0344D, IAB 6/10/26, effective 8/1/26]

489—1.5(237) Foster care review. The state board is required by Iowa Code section 237.18 to establish procedures and protocols for completing reviews of the cases of children in foster care, including a recordkeeping system and training requirements for individuals completing reviews.

1.5(1) *Establishing procedures and protocols.*

a. The state board is responsible for approval of policy and procedures consistent with the Iowa Code.

b. The department establishes and submits to the state board for approval policy and procedures that provide detailed guidance to individuals reviewing the cases of children in foster care on application of these rules and the statutes that govern foster care reviews.

c. Individuals reviewing the cases of children in foster care under the oversight of the state board are required to comply with the protocols and procedures approved by the state board.

d. Implementation of policy and procedures is the responsibility of the department.

This subrule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 17A.3 and 237.19.

1.5(2) *Findings and recommendations.* The department will submit the findings and recommendations of foster care reviews to the state board. The report to the state board will include information regarding the permanency plan and the progress in attaining the permanency goals.

This subrule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 237.19.

[ARC 0344D, IAB 6/10/26, effective 8/1/26]

489—1.6(237) Children eligible for review. To be eligible for review, the child shall have received services from the department during the period under review.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 17A.3 and 237.18.

[ARC 0344D, IAB 6/10/26, effective 8/1/26]

489—1.7(237) Court appointed special advocate program. The state board is required by Iowa Code section 237.18 to establish procedures and protocols for administering the court appointed special advocate program.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 237.18.

[ARC 0344D, IAB 6/10/26, effective 8/1/26]

489—1.8(237) Program requirements.

1.8(1) *Establishing additional procedures and protocols.*

a. The state board is responsible for approval of procedures and protocols consistent with the Iowa Code.

b. The department establishes and submits to the state board for approval a program policy and procedures manual that provides detailed guidance to department staff and volunteers on application of these rules and the statutes that govern the operation of the court appointed special advocate program.

c. Department staff and volunteers are required to comply with the protocols and procedures approved by the state board and the provisions of the policy and procedures manual established by the department and approved by the state board.

d. Implementation of program policy is the responsibility of the department.

e. The department is responsible for recruiting, screening, selecting, training, and supervising court appointed special advocates.

f. The CASA selection is made in a manner that provides the best match available between the knowledge, skills, abilities, and availability of the advocate and the needs of the child. The assignments shall be made in a manner that avoids conflicts of interest, risk to the child's or advocate's safety, or jeopardy to the program's integrity.

g. Upon selection of the CASA who will serve on an individual case, the court and all interested parties are notified of the selection.

h. The selected CASA continues to serve on the case until the assignment is terminated by the court.

1.8(2) Reserved.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 237.18.

[ARC 0344D, IAB 6/10/26, effective 8/1/26]

489—1.9(237) Adherence to national guidelines. The National Court Appointed Special Advocate/Guardian ad Litem Association for Children has established a national quality assurance system for CASA programs. The primary goal of the system is to strengthen CASA organizations and support their efforts to provide high-quality child advocacy and achieve the maximum level of excellence. CASA of Iowa shall continue to maintain compliance with the standards and, within the limits of available funding, shall deploy resources to maintain compliance in the future.

1.9(1) *CASA advocate qualifications.* Potential coaches and advocates shall meet the qualifications defined by the National CASA Association for Children Standards as amended to August 1, 2026.

1.9(2) *Application requirements for CASA volunteers.* All CASA volunteer applicants shall complete the requirements defined in the National CASA Association for Children Standards as amended to August 1, 2026.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 17A.3 and 237.18.

[ARC 0344D, IAB 6/10/26, effective 8/1/26]

489—1.10(237) Training. All court appointed special advocates, volunteers, and staff shall complete pre-service and continuing education requirements as defined in the National CASA Association for Children Standards as amended to August 1, 2026.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 17A.3 and 237.18.

[ARC 0344D, IAB 6/10/26, effective 8/1/26]

489—1.11(237) Children eligible for assignment of a court appointed special advocate. CASA of Iowa serves any child for whom the court appoints a court appointed special advocate as long as the resources to do so are available.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 17A.3 and 237.18.

[**ARC 0344D**, IAB 6/10/26, effective 8/1/26]

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¹ The effective date of **ARC 7698C** was corrected to July 1, 2024, in the April 3, 2024, Iowa Administrative Bulletin.