



Member of the National
CASA Association



WASHINGTON, D.C.

“SHAME ON U.S.”

THIS REPORT FAULTS ALL THREE BRANCHES OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR BEING DERELICT IN THEIR DUTIES TO PROTECT ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN

A **national report** finds that such dereliction allows all 50 states to fall short in meeting minimum child welfare standards.

A new report released today is highly critical of all three branches of the federal government for being derelict in their duties to protect America’s most vulnerable children. The report – “Shame on U.S.” – reviewed the federal government’s own internal documents and found that not one state is in full “substantial conformity” with minimum standards set in federal law designed to protect abused and neglected children.

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- ⌘ The CASA Board of Directors meets on the 3rd Tuesday each month at 11:30am at the CASA office.
- ⌘ The Mendocino Co. Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Commission meets monthly on the 3rd Friday noon to 2 p.m. at the Probation Dept. conference room, 589 Low Gap Road, Ukiah.
- ⌘ The Lake Co. Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Commission meets monthly on the 3rd Thursday at noon, conference room C, on the 3rd floor of the Lake County Courthouse, 255 N. Forbes St., Lakeport.

**Improving Child Welfare:
Why Community-Based Prevention Must be Part
of the Reform Equation**

Already in the first weeks of 2015, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and the county's acting Chief Executive Officer have taken action to improve collaboration and make structural changes that should speed up child welfare system reforms.

Such reforms are much needed and timely. New findings from a study by the Children's Data Network at the University of Southern California School of Social Work found that almost 1 in 7 California children (14.8 percent) were reported to Child Protective Services (CPS) for suspected child abuse or neglect before age five. The numbers by counties varied significantly, but some had rates higher than 30 percent. The study represents the first time California birth records and CPS data have been linked to generate cumulative rather than annual rates of CPS involvement over several years.

Community

**February is Stand up for Teen DV
Month**

It is critical to talk to all youth about recognizing abuse and how to build healthy relationships. **Break the Cycle** has developed “A Parent’s Handbook: How to Talk to Youth about Healthy Relationships” to help you support the young people in your lives to learn the skills to create and foster positive, healthy relationships with peers and dating partners. By building these skills and applying them, young people will be the key to preventing dating abuse and breaking the cycle of violence.

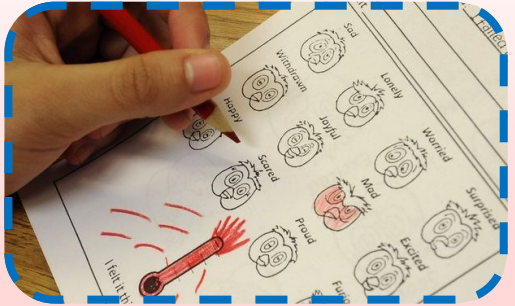


"Every Child's Eyes" tells the story of a young boy in foster care, a friendship, a CASA volunteer, and the gift of a forever home. Become a CASA Volunteer with CASA of Mendocino and Lake Counties. Call Sheryn at 463-6503, Ext. 13. Classes forming now.

In Foster Care, Treating the Trigger

Research suggests that abuse, abandonment and neglect can change the way a child's brain develops. Doctors are now treating some of the city's most vulnerable children for PTSD.

Trigger



**100 Kinds of Foster
Parents**



If you’ve thought about foster parenting at all, even for a couple of minutes, you probably grasp that someone has to do it. Because the truth is that kids whose parents can’t care for them has been a global problem for all of human history. It is a problem that could get better or worse...