

CFE Tool of the Month

Genogram V.S. Family Tree, which one do you use?

A Genogram and a Family Tree both are diagrams illustrating a person's family members. Structurally they are similar but serve a very different purpose.

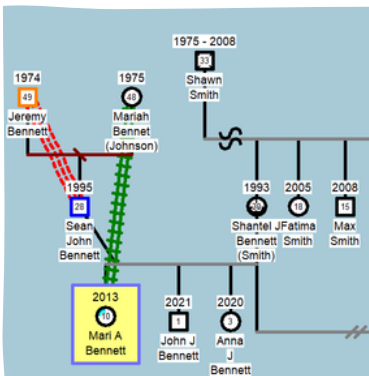
A Family Tree is a representation of a person's origin, tracing relationships to common ancestors.

A genogram while tracing origin also includes information about the relationships and interactions between family members, while a family tree only shows members of the family.

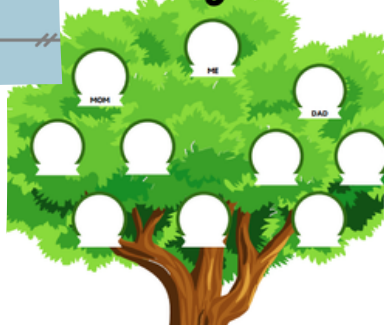
In other words, a genogram is a way of recording and interpreting the family history of a particular individual. A genogram contain information such as full names, genders, date of birth, date of death, medical history, criminal history, cultural background, social behaviors, and even shows natural support outside the biological family structure.

As a CASA you have access to GenoPro for free by going to this link:

<https://texascasa.org/resources/genogram-software/>



Family Tree



Please reach out to staff or supervisors if you are feeling overwhelmed or in need of assistance!

Spotlight!

Congratulations, Michael, for being recognized by your peers!



Michael Dean came to our program first as an advocate in Sept 2021 while on active duty in the Air Force. When he retired in December 2022 we took the opportunity to utilize his military service and experience as our new Training Specialist. His passions are family, service and the Kansas City Chiefs!

As an advocate, Michael has a heart for protecting and serving which is reflected in the advocacy he provides the teenage boy he's assigned to. He goes above and beyond to ensure not only the basic needs of this boy are met, but that he has the support and resources he needs for a bright future.

As a new staff member, Rebel stated "Michael has a strong desire for our program to grow in capacity to serve every child from our community in the foster care system. And in his role as Training Specialist, he is laying a firm foundation of knowledge and skills to ensure our volunteers are equipped and ready to provide the best possible advocacy for our children and youth."

Big Country CASA is better because you are here!

Attention Advocates!



Big Country CASA recognizes the financial strain traveling for child visits outside our area may be for some advocates. With this in mind, there are limited funds available for reimbursement of fuel or mileage expenses as needed. We can also try to secure a rental car at a discounted rate.

It is a priority of Big Country CASA to maximize our advocacy efforts including the connection between our kiddos and their advocates. Please visit with your supervisor about the procedures and guidelines for reimbursement or rental car.

We hope this will aide in building connection and giving your kiddos the time with you that they deserve!

Remember, every child has a chance-it's you!

Don't forget to like, share, and comment on our social media posts!



Info Meet Thursdays!

In Person:

October 5th, 10 -11am @ Monks Coffee Shop
 October 12th, 2 -3pm @ Lustea on Catclaw
 October 19th, 5:15-6:15pm @ Mad Coffee & More
 October 26th, 9 -10am @ Starbucks on 14th

Virtual Info Meet:

October 18th, 7-8pm
 Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89911924344?pwd=ejhTVjBKWkVGNtVsbTBCdUtjWkdWUT09>

Other Important Dates:

Winter New Volunteer Training - Refer a friend!

Kicks off January 18th!

Reminder:

You have 3 months to complete the remainder of your 12 CEUs!

CEU Opportunities

October 3rd @ 7- 9pm – Book Club
 October 31st @ 11:45 – 1pm - L&L with Attorney Bryce Bedford - "Testifying in Court"

Other Dates:

October 3rd @ 8:45 – New Volunteer Swearing-in
Hispanic Chamber Business Mercado -
 October 14th from 10 -2pm @ Convention Center



Key Connections Conference
January 23, 2024 @ Beltway Park North
Details to come!

Quote of the month:

"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.

-Coretta Scott King

Volunteer of the Quarter !

Congratulations to Dixie for being named our Volunteer of the Quarter! Dixie, your hard work, passion and dedication to our kiddos is inspiring!

Every child has a chance-it's you!



88th Legislative Session Wrap-up

The Texas CASA Public Policy Team came to Abilene to provide updates from the 88th Legislative Session. They detailed significant legislative changes and how they impact the advocacy work for CASA programs. Some key points included:

- **HB1** approved funding to help provide mental health support for kinship placements, and to help with the cost of kinship placements in the licensing process and a new methodology to modernize the foster care rate.
- **HB 1087** requires DFPS to make reasonable efforts to prevent child removal. CASA supports funding and policies that provide a child access to safe, stable placements in their community that meet their individual need and support their permanency goals.
- **SB 1930** ensures children in foster care spend more time with families than in facilities by enhancing legal representation including GAL powers and duties so judges can more actively monitor progress. The children must be asked their opinions and concerns regarding placements, and information must be reviewed to ensure the placement is appropriate for their specific needs. This authorizes AAL and GALs the ability to request placement conferences where all parties must participate and allows the AAL and GAL to participate in any conference conducted by DFPS or the RTC treatment teams. *Include this on our court reports!
- **SB 1379** established a Foster Youth Financial to assist youth in foster care in achieving financial security and independence as they transition to independent living by assisting youth in opening savings and checking accounts.
- **HB 3765** requires DFPS to maintain and distribute luggage for use when transporting personal belongings as opposed to the age old trash bags and to maintain records of times a trash bag is use.
- For a more detailed list of the bills that passed, please call the office for a brief handout.