Module 2 Distinguish Between Reasonable and Unreasonable Ideas Within a Group

Some beliefs in this group that seem to make perfect sense, objectively speaking are:

My previous career was focused on child advocacy for abused and neglected children in foster care. One belief is that all children in the child welfare system should have representation in the Court system, like each of the other parties to the case, have access to.

As a society, we must protect one of the most vulnerable populations, our children.

Some beliefs in this group that cause problems are:

How the Judge, other attorneys’ and the individuals involved from various bureaucracies at times minimize the input offered by the CASA volunteer, regardless of the fact they are considered a full party to the case. The program was started because a Judge saw the need for citizen advocates to be involved, to be the child’s voice in Court, alongside the others involved with the system. The reality at times almost obliterates the volunteer’s voice on behalf of the child. The bureaucratic alignment can be a hindrance to what is really in the best interests of the child.

I believe that these beliefs need to be replaced with the following, more rational, beliefs:

More of a balance of input and power in these cases would be fairer and more beneficial. Egocentricity plays a part in this continual movement of the pendulum away from the citizen advocacy representation of these children. The effort to hear the voices of all of those involved instead of sometimes silencing those who don’t agree with the majority or those in power, would go a long way to ensure a thorough analysis of the necessary information to reach a resolution that is in the best interests of the child.