

As a measure of recommended practice, to protect against any institutional OR implicit bias in decision-making, CASA/GALs should make a habit of asking themselves before any decision point:

What **assumptions** have I made about the **cultural identity, genders, and background** of this family?

What is my understanding of this family's **unique culture and circumstances**?

How are my decisions **specific to this child** and this family?

How has the **court's past contact and involvement** with this family **influenced** (or how might it influence) **my decision-making process and recommendations**?

What **evidence has supported every conclusion** I have drawn, and how have I challenged **unsupported assumptions**?

Am I convinced that **reasonable efforts** (or active efforts in ICWA cases) have been **made in an individualized way** to match the needs of the family?

Am I **considering relatives as a preferred placement** when a move is necessary?