

Court Appointed Special Advocate Volunteer

A Court Appointed Special Advocate, CASA, is a trained volunteer, sworn in as an Officer of the Court and appointed to a specific case by a Judge. A CASA is the voice for abused and neglected children who are in foster care. Working in conjunction with case professionals and attorneys, a CASA advocates for the best interest of a child. A CASA meets with the child at least monthly and attends monthly team meetings with case professionals, parents and/or foster parents. A CASA will meet with teachers, daycare providers, medical and mental health providers, and other service providers as needed. At least every six months, a CASA will write a court report with recommendations to the court. A CASA will also attend periodic court hearings.

Essential Volunteer Duties

- Meet with the child on a consistent basis, a minimum of one time per month.
- Attend meetings with case professionals, parents and/or foster parents.
- Establish and maintain contact with schools, therapists, medical professionals, and other professionals involved in the child's life.
- Monitor court-ordered services to ensure effectiveness, and advocate for additional services as needed.
- Document observations, facts and circumstances of the child's situation in a written court report including recommendations for placement, services, and permanency.
- Attend court hearings.

Training

- Complete 30 hours of pre-service training and 2 hours of court observation.
- Complete 12 hours of continuing education training annually.

Additional Events & Support

- CASA Kids Holiday Party in December
- Volunteer Recognition Event in April
- Do Good Days in May

Minimum Requirements

- Able to commit to a minimum of 2 years.
- Willing to commit 10 to 12 hours per month.
- Able to commit to training hours as noted above.
- Attend court hearings along or notify Advocate Supervisor if unable.
- Able to maintain objectivity and professionalism in dealing with the child and all other parties involved.
- Ability to maintain confidentiality.
- Possess excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- Possess a working knowledge of Microsoft Word and Email.
- Must have reliable transportation.
- Must be at least 21 years of age.
- Must pass a background check, have a valid driver's license/identification, valid auto insurance (if applicable), valid phone number, and have a permanent address.