



THINKING ABOUT BECOMING A CASA VOLUNTEER?

BELOW ARE A FEW OF THE MOST COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS...

CASA for Children is growing its volunteer base! If you are interested in becoming a CASA volunteer advocate, please consider attending one of our virtual information sessions! Please also feel free to pass this information on to interested friends and family.

FAQ

[SIGN UP FOR AN
INFO SESSION](#)

What is a CASA volunteer advocate?

CASA stands for “Court Appointed Special Advocate”. CASA volunteers are appointed by judges to provide in and out of court advocacy for foster children. CASA work includes a thorough investigation of every aspect of a child’s dependency which includes, among other things, visiting their appointed child once a month, reviewing all case documents, and interviewing people involved with the child including teachers, family members, counselors, etc. CASAs use the information they gather to make recommendations to the judge about what is in the child’s best interest. CASAs attend all court hearings and case meetings, and are instrumental in ensuring that the child’s needs are being met.

Why is the CASA role important?

A CASA volunteer advocate is a legal party to the dependency case and the only party whose entire role is to advocate for the best interest of the child. Additionally, CASAs typically volunteer on only one case at a time, which allows them to devote all their energy and attention to one child or sibling group, as opposed to caseworkers and attorneys who often have dozens or even hundreds of cases.

Can anyone become a CASA?

The only requirements for becoming a CASA volunteer advocate are:

- a willingness to dedicate 35 hours to pre-service training
- a roughly two year commitment as CASAs are asked to advocate for a child until their case closes
- some flexibility in scheduling during the week to allow for attendance at court hearing and case meetings
- a minimum age of 21

What training and support does a CASA receive?

CASAs go through a 35 hour training before they take their first case. CASAs are supported throughout the life of their case by CASA supervisors. CASA supervisors are staff members who help them navigate their role as a CASA, answer questions, troubleshoot case issues, and provide information and resources.

Can CASA volunteer advocates work full-time?

Yes! About 70% of CASA volunteers work full time. Being a CASA does require some flexibility in scheduling so prospective volunteers are encouraged to seek the support of their employers.