



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What does CASA stand for?**

Court Appointed Special Advocates

### **What is a CASA volunteer?**

A CASA volunteer is a trained community member that is appointed by a judge to provide a voice in court proceedings for abused and/or neglected children.

### **What is a CASA volunteer's role?**

A CASA volunteer works with attorneys, social workers, school personnel, health care providers, parents, and any other parties who are involved with the child. From the information gathered, the CASA will make recommendations to the judge as to what is in the best interest of the child. The term "best interest" is defined as a safe and permanent home as quickly as possible. As objective observers, CASA volunteers allow the child to explain his or her own feelings, hopes, and opinions, these wishes are also expressed to the court. CASA volunteers are not mentors, but they do advocate on behalf of children.

### **What does being a CASA require?**

A CASA volunteer must successfully complete a minimum of 30 hours of training in addition to courtroom observations prior to their first case assignment. Each CASA volunteer is required to visit his or her court appointed child every 7 to 10 days. In addition to time spent with the child, the volunteer will conduct an investigation to determine what will be a safe, permanent home as quickly as possible. Based on that information, the volunteer will submit a written report to the court. A CASA volunteer is required to make a commitment to the program for a minimum of 18 months or until the resolution of their case, whichever comes first.

### **What are the qualifications?**

A CASA volunteer may be any interested citizen who is 21 years old, has a valid driver's license, and has no history of abuse or neglect. A CASA must be screened, interviewed, trained, and sworn in by the Family Court Judge.

### **How do I volunteer?**

The first step to becoming a volunteer is to fill out an application online by clicking [here!](#)