

CASA Program FAQ

What is a CASA?

A Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) is a trained volunteer who is appointed by a judge to represent the best interests of a child.

What are the qualifications?

CASAs must be at least 21 years of age and submit to required background clearances, pass screening, complete pre-service and ongoing trainings as well as any other program requirements.

How does a CASA differ from a caseworker?

A CASA is an independent appointee of the Court. Caseworkers work on as many as 30 cases at a time. A CASA is a volunteer who has an average caseload of one to two. This allows them to more readily focus on the child and their needs.



A CASA has four roles:

- 1) Gather information about the child and their family, their background and current circumstances.
- 2) Advocate by providing information to the court and make fact based recommendations regarding what is in the child's best interest.
- 3) Monitor court orders and case plans to ensure services are carried out, court orders and plans are followed.
- 4) Facilitate a collaborative relationship among parties to help create a framework in which the child's best interests are considered, plus identify resources and services the child and family needs.

What is the time commitment?

The average amount of time that a CASA spends on a case is 10-15 hours a month. Some CASAs are retired while others are still in the workforce. There is a 18-24 month commitment upon assignment.

Caseworkers and attorneys can change during a child's time in care. The CASA is the one consistent person in the child's life.

How does a CASA approach a case?

In order to prepare a recommendation, the CASA speaks with the parents, resource parents, caseworkers, school officials, health providers and others who are knowledgeable about the family's history. The CASA also reviews all records pertaining to the family.

How does a CASA know what to do on a case?

We offer an extensive pre-service training. Plus, the CASA Office provides 24/7 support from staff. We encourage all of our CASAs to contact us whenever needed. If we do not have the answer, we will get it for you.



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