Give a child a Voice

Become a CASA, Court Appointed Special Advocate, and be a voice for a child that needs it.

Who can become a CASA volunteer?

Are you a mature, responsible adult? Do you have good communication skills? Do you have two hours a week to volunteer? Do you care about children? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, then you may be qualified to be a CASA volunteer! CASA volunteers come from all walks of life. They have a variety of professional, educational and ethnic backgrounds. No special experience is required. Volunteers are selected on the basis of their objectivity, competence and commitment.

What is a CASA Volunteer?

CASA is a national program. A CASA volunteer is an advocate for children under the court's jurisdiction for abuse, neglect or dependency. Children who otherwise would not have a voice in court benefit from talking to someone they can trust - someone they know is there to help them - a CASA.

Is a CASA a Mentor?

Not really. CASAs are the eyes and ears for the Guardian ad Litem attorney who represents the best interest of the child in juvenile court. A CASA will establish a relationship with the child, contact other professionals on the case and report back monthly to the GAL on the progress of the child.

What is the time commitment for a CASA?

One year minimum. A CASA will visit with the child at least once a week and spend between 10-15 hours a month on a case.

Are there any special requirements to be a CASA?

- Volunteers must be 21 years of age or older
- Pass a BCI (background check) and Child Abuse Registry screening
- Complete 32 hours of training
- Be committed to serving children

What is the responsibility of a CASA Volunteer?

Representing the best interest of the child by doing the following:

- Investigation: an objective, systematic examination of the situation, including relevant history and the needs of the child.
- Facilitation: identify resources and services for the child and facilitate a collaborative relationship between all parties on the case, helping to create a situation in which the child's needs can be met.
- Advocacy: speak up for and plead the case of the child(ren) for whom you are appointed.
- Monitoring: Keep track of whether or not the orders of the court and treatment plan are being followed.

Are CASAs like social workers?

No. Social workers focus on the needs of an entire family. The CASA volunteer is solely interested in helping the child to find a safe, permanent home. The Office of the Guardian ad Litem represents the best interests of the child(ren).

Please feel free to visit:

www.casaforchildren.org

For more information contact

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