



VOLUNTEER EXPECTED ACTIVITIES

The CASA makes independent recommendations in written report format to the court for services that focus on meeting the needs of each child.

Activities:

- Visit the child at least once monthly.
- Gather independent information about the child to make recommendations to the court in the child's best interest.
- Interview the parents, guardians or caretakers.
- Interview the social worker and other service providers
- Review records related to the family.
- Seek cooperative solutions with other participants in the child's case.
- Prepare reports for court hearings and panels.
- Attend and participate in court hearings, Citizen Panel Reviews and other related meetings.
- Testify, if needed, to inform the court of changes in the child's situation.
- Identify potential resources within the family and community to meet the child's needs.
- Keep all records and information confidential.
- Monitor provisions of service plans and court orders.
- Explain the role of the CASA to the child involved, and keep the child informed about court proceedings.
- Consult with local program staff for support/guidance.
- Advocate for the child in the community
- Identify potential resources within the family and community to meet the child's needs
- Maintain focus on the child until permanency is achieved.
- Ensure the court knows the child's wishes.

Qualifications: The main qualification is a sincere concern for children. The volunteer must be a mature adult with good verbal and written communication skills. A CASA volunteer must be able to attend all court hearings. The volunteer must be able to commit to the program for at least one year or, preferably until permanency is achieved. Essential qualities include the ability to be objective and non-judgmental. Every volunteer must complete a 40-hour comprehensive training program. 12 hours per year of continuing education are required after the initial training.

Requirements: The process of becoming a CASA volunteer requires a written application including four personal/professional references, a criminal records check and a federal fingerprint check. The minimum age for becoming a CASA volunteer is 21 years of age. A personal interview will be conducted by a staff member. The volunteer must complete 40 hours of required training, which includes court observation and DFCS orientation as well as 12 hours per year of continuing education. The fully trained and screened volunteer will be sworn-in by the juvenile court judge prior to the assignment of his or her first case. A CASA's appointment lasts until a case reaches permanency.

Training and Supervision: The pre-service training program developed by National CASA and adapted by Georgia CASA is offered through the local CASA office. CASA volunteers are also provided with on-going training by the Program Director. Program staff supervises CASA volunteers.