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**Education:**High School (check last year completed) 9  10  11  12 College (check last year completed) 1  2  3  4  Specify area of study/degree:Graduate (check last year completed) 1  2  3  4  Specify area of study/degree:Are you currently attending school? yes  no  If yes, specify school: \_\_\_\_\_ Area of study/degree objective: \_\_\_\_\_Are you bilingual? yes  no  If yes, specify language(s): \_\_\_\_\_Ethnicity:  African American  Asian/Pacific Islander  Hispanic/Latino  Multi-Racial  White/Non-Latino  
 Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_  Decline to StateHow did you become aware of the CASA Program?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_Special skills and/or recreational interests:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_Describe prior volunteer experience:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_Have your life experiences included working with people of races and social/economic circumstances different than your own?  
yes  no  If yes, please describe:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**Time availability:**

CASA of Los Angeles requires a two-year commitment. The time demands for CASA volunteers vary with the case assignment. We estimate volunteers devote an average of 5 hours per week to case activities. Some activities may be completed by telephone. Court appearances and other case activities will require you to be available during the regular workweek hours (*i.e. contact with CASA supervisors, social workers, teachers, therapists, etc.*). Court hearings are scheduled in advance and ample notice is given, barring any unforeseen circumstances. Do you have any particular time restrictions? yes  no  If yes, please explain:

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**Training:**Successful completion of all training is required for acceptance into the CASA program. Attendance at all training sessions is mandatory. Can you commit to the training with advance notice? yes  no *(Many employers allow and encourage employee volunteer service to the community.)*

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**Travel:**

CASA of Los Angeles serves children throughout Los Angeles County. Traveling is necessary as the duties of a Court Appointed Special Advocate include monthly, face-to-face contact with a child wherever the child is residing. Traveling may also be necessary for interviews or conferences with other parties related to the case or to conduct on-site assessments.

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**Liability:**

All volunteers are required to maintain automobile liability coverage, which satisfies the requirements under California law.

**Note: CASA of Los Angeles requires annual verification of automobile insurance and valid California Driver's License.**

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**Security Clearance:**

Please read and complete the security clearance form and return attached to this application. All applicants accepted for training will be fingerprinted for a background check conducted by the Los Angeles Superior Court.

**Have you ever been:**

- Arrested for a crime against a child?    yes     no
- Arrested for a violent felony?            yes     no
- Arrested for a sex crime?                  yes     no
- 

**Health Background:**

CASA volunteers deal with sensitive issues that may be emotionally demanding. For this reason, the following questions are asked with the understanding that all information is confidential.

1. Do you have any physical limitations?    yes     no     If yes, please describe. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Do you take any medications?            yes     no
  3. Have you ever participated in counseling or psychotherapy?    yes     no
  4. Do you have personal experience with issues related to any of the following:
    - a. Child abuse                    yes     no
    - b. Domestic violence            yes     no
    - c. Substance abuse              yes     no
  5. Have you ever been prescribed any medications for mental health issues?    yes     no
- 

**Personal Statement:**

Please *use a separate sheet of paper* to respond to the following questions and attach the sheet to this application.

1. Describe your childhood.
  2. State any personal or professional experiences you have had concerning issues of physical, sexual and/or emotional abuse or neglect or abandonment of children.
  3. State any personal or professional experiences you have had concerning issues of domestic violence and/or substance abuse.
  4. Why would you like to become a CASA volunteer?
  5. How do you hope to benefit from this experience?
  6. Have you or anyone you know ever been involved in a dependency court proceeding involving a child in the foster care system?    yes     no     If yes, please explain.
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**References:**

Please list three non-relative references who have known you for at least 2 years and can describe your personal and/or professional capacity to work as a volunteer with CASA. At least one reference should be from employment or volunteer experiences. These references will be contacted and asked to complete a reference questionnaire. All references are confidential.

1. Name:	Relationship:		
Email:	Phone:		
Address:	City:	State:	Zip:
<hr/>			
2. Name:	Relationship:		
Email:	Phone:		
Address:	City:	State:	Zip:
<hr/>			
3. Name:	Relationship:		
Email:	Phone:		
Address:	City:	State:	Zip:

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**AGREEMENT**

(Please initial where indicated.)

As a potential CASA volunteer, I understand that I must meet the following preliminary qualifications:

- 1. I am over 25 years of age. \_\_\_\_\_  
INITIALS
- 2. I do not have any criminal convictions. \_\_\_\_\_  
INITIALS
- 3. I own a personal vehicle and am willing to drive in my capacity as a CASA volunteer. \_\_\_\_\_  
INITIALS
- 4. I am not a foster parent nor do I receive financial compensation from DCFS or any DCFS contractor. \_\_\_\_\_  
INITIALS
- 5. Upon successful completion of the screening and volunteer training, I will be expected to serve approximately 20 hours a month for at least 24 months as a Court Appointed Special Advocate. \_\_\_\_\_  
INITIALS
- 6. As an applicant to be a CASA volunteer, I agree to:
  - a) Submit to an investigation of suitability as a CASA, including but not limited to, being fingerprinted, criminal background check (FBI and Department of Justice), and Department of Motor Vehicles records check and/or provide CASA with a copy of your current driver's license, DMV printout and auto insurance annually. \_\_\_\_\_  
INITIALS
  - b) Participate in on-going supervision and continuing education training classes, cooperating fully with staff and adhering to all agency-approved report-writing criteria. \_\_\_\_\_  
INITIALS

As an applicant of CASA of Los Angeles I understand and acknowledge that CASA of Los Angeles is not obligated in any way to accept me into the volunteer training program by submission of this application. \_\_\_\_\_  
INITIALS

I understand that CASA of Los Angeles retains the right to refuse any individual they feel would not act in a way that would serve the best interests of the child. CASA of Los Angeles is not required to state the reason for declining an applicant into the program if they so choose. \_\_\_\_\_  
INITIALS

I understand that any applicant found to have been convicted of or having current charges pending for a felony or misdemeanor involving a sex offense, child abuse, or child neglect must not be accepted as a CASA volunteer. \_\_\_\_\_  
INITIALS

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please review your

- ❶ application
- ❷ personal statement, and
- ❸ security clearance

for completeness and return all **ORIGINAL SIGNED** forms to:

**CASA of Los Angeles**  
**Edmund D. Edelman Children's Court**  
**201 Centre Plaza Drive, Room 1100**  
**Monterey Park, CA 91754-2142**