



## **Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Volunteer Position Description**

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer! CASA volunteers are appointed by dependency court judges to gather information about the circumstances of children who have been removed from their homes because of abuse or neglect. The information they provide to the court assists judges in making more informed decisions about the children who appear before them.

### **Qualifications**

Anyone over the age of 21 who is committed to helping children may apply to become a CASA volunteer. No specific education background is required, but volunteers must have strong communication and problem solving skills. Traveling is necessary as the duties of a CASA include monthly, face-to-face contact with a child wherever the child is residing. All volunteers undergo a background check, including fingerprinting.

### **Responsibilities**

- Complete our 40-hour pre-service training program, which includes both in person and online components.
- Commit an average of 15 hours per month to case activities on behalf of the child.
- Maintain regular contact with the child (visit at least once a month).
- Gather information about the child's circumstances, evaluate the facts independently, and provide recommendations to the court by means of written reports.
- Communicate sensitively and objectively with children, social workers, foster care providers, therapists, teachers, attorneys, parents, or other family members who may be involved in the case.
- Maintain and submit monthly documentation of advocacy work, including time spent and contacts made on the case via our online database.
- Attend court hearings.
- Complete 12 hours of continuing education each year. CASA of Los Angeles provides many educational opportunities, including monthly in-service training.
- Fulfill a minimum two-year commitment to CASA of Los Angeles.

There are a few restrictions to becoming a CASA volunteer. A CASA cannot be:

- Involved in or a party to a dependency court matter.
- Approved as a Resource Family (even if there are no currently approved children living in your home) or pursuing adoption through the County of Los Angeles.
- Employed by or volunteering at an agency which could present a conflict of interest.

***To learn more about CASA of LA's work and becoming a volunteer, visit:***

<http://casala.org/volunteer/>