

CASA TRAINING FROM START TO FINISH

Thank you for your interest in CASA. We have prepared this form to guide you through the screening process: from application to becoming a sworn officer of the court and “a powerful voice in a child’s life.” This whole process is meant to help both applicant and program-staff determine if the program will be a “good match.” At any point during this process the applicant is able to step down, as well as the CASA staff reserving the right to ask any applicant to discontinue the process. Of course, the CASA staff will discuss any concerns before asking someone to step down, but it is important to understand that the training is just as much a part of the screening process as the application and interviews. Again, we want to thank you for your interest in advocating for abused children in our county.

I. Attend Community Orientation.

- A. Basic description and history of program.
- B. Hear a CASA advocate discuss “ups and downs” of their experience.

II. Application.

- A. Completed application form required.
- B. Three references.
 - 1. Each reference receives a “reference questionnaire” to be filled out and returned.
 - 2. Reference questionnaires are strictly confidential and viewed only by the program staff and interview panel.
- C. “Authority to release information” form.
- D. Verification of auto insurance (copy of first page of insurance policy).

III. Group Interview.

- A. Panel of three professionals including at least one CASA representative.
- B. Personal and intense questions on a variety of related issues.

IV. Acceptance into training.

- A. Acceptance letter.
- B. Forms for fingerprinting.
- C. DMV printout.
- D. TB Test.
- E. Criminal Registries.
- F. Dates for upcoming training.

V. Classroom training (approximately 40 hrs)-Must attend the classes, with only minimal absences allowed. Topics include:

- A. Child Development Issues.
- B. Dynamics of Abuse.
- C. Communication and Role Playing.
- D. Courtroom observation and court report writing.
- E. Foster Youth and Teen Rights.
- F. Educational, Medical, and Mental Health Advocacy.
- G. Tour of Jamison Center and Through the Eyes of a Child.

VI. Exit Interview.

- A. Interview with program staff and/or CASA trainer.
- B. Discuss any questions or concerns.
- C. Final invitation or exclusion from the program.

VII. GRADUATION!!!

- A. Judge will swear the advocates in as officers of the court.
- B. Become a powerful voice in a child’s life!!