

CASA CHILD ADVOCATE REQUIREMENTS

DEFINITION:

A Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) is an officer of the Court who serves as an advocate for an abused child. The volunteer is under the supervision of the CASA Executive Director and Case Manger.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES:

- Meet with child on a regular basis (normally weekly).
- Attend all mandatory monthly in-service/continuing education meetings.
- Work cooperatively with departments, Social Services, Court personnel, and other agencies.
- Meet child's parents.
- Meet foster parents.
- Make home visits.
- Interview all necessary parties to the case.
- Attend all Court Hearings pertaining to the case.
- Keep records.
- Review records.
- Provide copies of all records/reports to the CASA Executive Director and/or Case Manager.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- 21 years of age or older.
- General knowledge of report writing (will train)
- Communicate with children, parents, foster parents, and any agency representatives.

OTHER CHARACTERISTICS:

A willingness to:

- Commit to at least 18 months of service.
- Attend approximately 40 hours of mandatory training and one monthly in-service/continuing education meeting, as well as any other necessary meetings.
- Cooperate fully with all CASA staff.
- Adhere to agency approved report writing criteria.
- Attend mandatory court tour during training.
- Travel locally and use own transportation with compensation.
- Complete monthly mandatory reports on the status of case/hours volunteered, etc.
- Be supervised by CASA staff.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Must be fingerprinted and submit to background check. Graduation depends on successful fingerprint clearance and background check as well as successful completion of training sessions and any additional requirements that the CASA staff may deem necessary.
- Must have a valid California Drivers License and provide a copy annually.
- Must have current auto insurance and provide a copy of proof annually.
- Must submit a DMV printout to CASA.
- Must fill out and submit volunteer application along with all required references.
- Must complete all training requirements.