

FAQs



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

Court Appointed Special Advocates



WHAT ARE THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF A CASA VOLUNTEER?

WHO IS A CASA VOLUNTEER?

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers are community members of all walks of life. After comprehensive training, volunteers advocate for a child's best interest in court. These are Ohio children who experience abuse and neglect. Many are in the foster care system.

DO VOLUNTEERS MAKE AN IMPACT?

CASA volunteers can make a life-changing difference for children experiencing abuse and neglect. A child's advocate is often the one constant in their life. For example, research shows children with a CASA volunteer are more likely to succeed in school and find a safe, permanent home.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS TO VOLUNTEER?

CASA volunteers must be at least 21-years-old, pass a background check, complete at least 30 hours of pre-service training plus in-court observation, and accumulate 12 hours of continuing education every year.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF OHIO CASA?

Ohio CASA is the non-profit state organization that provides county programs and their volunteers with training, support, funding and more. The goal of Ohio CASA is to serve every Ohio child who needs a volunteer to speak up for them. There are currently 47 CASA/GAL programs serving children in need in 60 Ohio counties.

RESEARCH

Throughout the case, the CASA volunteer gathers information about the child's circumstances (like family, history, needs, environment, relationships) and submits a report to the court, including objective recommendations. This report helps the judge or magistrate make the best decision for the child.

FACILITATE

The CASA volunteer participates in establishing a collaborative relationship with others involved with the child's case. This can include children services, service providers, foster parents and others, in order to identify resources and services to help create a situation where the child's needs are met.

ADVOCATE

The CASA volunteer promotes the best interest of the child in the court and child welfare system.

The aim is to achieve a safe and permanent home for the child in a timely manner, in part, by making sure that child's voice is heard in court.

MONITOR

The CASA volunteer remains actively informed of the child's circumstances, ensuring services ordered by the court are provided and the court is informed of new developments. The volunteer is also aware of the plans of social services agencies and works with these agencies when needed.

How
can I
GET
INVOLVED?



VOLUNTEER | Check out [OhioCASA.org/volunteer/](https://ohiocasa.org/volunteer/) to start your CASA volunteer journey or contact us!

GET SOCIAL | Interact with us on social media [@ohiocasa](https://twitter.com/ohiocasa) and [@casaofportagecounty](https://twitter.com/casaofportagecounty). This helps our mission reach more people!



portagecountycasa.org



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