

FAQs

CASA of Pima County



What is a CASA Volunteer?

CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocate. CASA Volunteers are everyday citizens appointed by a judge to speak up for abused and neglected children to ensure they have a safe and permanent home.

Is Training Provided to be a CASA Volunteer?

All advocates complete 30 hours of training - 15 hours of training with the CASA of Arizona's Advocacy Academy in either Phoenix or Tucson and 15 hours of training with the local CASA county program. During Advocacy Academy, advocates are educated about child welfare issues from experts in the field including child maltreatment, permanency planning, negotiation and interviewing, case assessment, and court report writing. Ongoing in-service training and support are provided in every county program, including opportunities for online training.

What Kind of Background or Experience is Required?

No specific educational background, profession, or experience is required. CASA Volunteers are dedicated individuals of high moral character who have a strong desire to advocate for abused and neglected children. Interested individuals must complete an application, provide recommendations, be interviewed, be fingerprinted and go through a background check.

How Much Time Does Being a CASA Volunteer Require?

Each case is unique. More time must be spent in the beginning, researching files and court documents and conducting interviews. CASA volunteers schedule their own time, with the exception of required attendance at court hearings and team meetings. Once familiar with the case and the parties involved, a CASA volunteer spends an average of 10-15 hours a month. Many CASA volunteers balance full-time or part-time employment with their CASA duties.

How Long Does a CASA Volunteer Remain on a Case?

The advocate continues with the case until it is permanently resolved. We ask that advocates commit to volunteering for at least a two year period. Often children are moved from one foster care home to another, and there can be a frequent change of case managers, judges, and hearing officers. One of the primary benefits of an advocate is to be the one consistent person who is there for the child throughout the entire process.

How is a CASA Volunteer Different from an Attorney or a CPS Case Manager?

Once appointed, the CASA volunteer becomes part of the judicial proceedings working alongside attorneys and case managers as an appointed officer of the court. Unlike attorneys and social workers, however, the CASA Volunteer speaks *exclusively* for the child's best interest.

How is CASA Funded?

In Arizona, the CASA program fund receives 30 percent of unclaimed state lottery prize money pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 5-518 and 8-524. Funds are appropriated annually by the Arizona State Legislature. The Arizona Supreme Court's CASA of Arizona Office administers 15 county CASA programs which are supervised and operated locally by Arizona's Superior Courts.

How Does a Child in Foster Care Get a CASA Volunteer?

Due to a shortage of CASA volunteers, there are thousands of children in foster care who are still waiting for a CASA volunteer. The Court or any person or agency having knowledge of the facts of a dependency case can contact the local CASA program to request an advocate. Appointment is made by the local County CASA program.

**VOLUNTEER TO BECOME AN
ADVOCATE TODAY!**

**Speak Up
for an abused child**

520-724-2060

www.CASAofPimaCounty.org

"There is nothing so great in life as knowing that you have forever changed the course of a child's existence from one of despair to one of hope." - CASA Volunteer

