



## What is a CASA & How to Become One

Voices for CASA Children and CASA of Maricopa County strive to ensure more children in foster care have the support of a CASA. But what does it mean to be a CASA?

### ARE YOU READY TO HELP? HERE'S HOW TO APPLY

#### ✓ Submit your application

The first step to becoming a CASA is filling out the Maricopa County CASA Volunteer Certification Application, followed by background checks, a polygraph exam, providing references and a one-on-one interview.

#### ✓ Complete 30 hours of pre-service training

Beyond the application, prospective volunteers undergo extensive training to ensure they are prepared to effectively represent children in the courtroom.

#### ✓ Commit to approximately 20 hours a month

Volunteer efforts range from gathering information on the child to appearing in court, recommending health, education and mental health services, and advocating for the child's best interests.

#### ✓ Receive support from the program as you support a child

CASA volunteers are supported every step of the way with everything from online resources and communities to continuous education from experienced staff.

#### ✓ See your first case through to the end

Your main objective is to provide a judge with information about a child in foster care to help the court make a sound decision about that child's future.

#### Contact Us

For more information, give us a call at 480-681-1474, email [info@voicesforcasachildren.org](mailto:info@voicesforcasachildren.org) or visit [voicesforcasachildren.org/become-a-casa-volunteer](http://voicesforcasachildren.org/become-a-casa-volunteer).

### 5 THINGS YOU WILL DO AS A CASA TO CHANGE A CHILD'S LIFE:

#### 1 Gather Information

Communicate with caregivers about the child's behaviors and relationships, and interview family members and professionals involved in the case. You'll participate as a member of the child's case management team and prepare a written court report based on the information you've collected.

#### 2 Appear in Court

You will advocate for the child's best interests and provide testimony when necessary to the court, as well as ensure case planning and services are provided.

#### 3 Act as a Mentor

The child welfare system is complicated, but CASAs are there to bridge the gaps. You're encouraged to spend consistent, quality time with the child and ignite cooperation between the individuals and organizations in the child's life.

#### 4 Explain the Situation

While assisting with this complex process, it is your responsibility to help your child understand the court proceedings and what some next steps may be.

#### 5 Make Educated Recommendations

Bring concerns about the child's health, education, mental health and other pillars to the appropriate professionals. Advocate for services that ensure the child's stability before finding a safe, permanent home.

