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?

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

1. Gather Information
2. Appear in Court
3. Act as a Mentor
4. Explain the Situation
5. Make Educated Recommendations

Contact Us
For more information, give us a call at 480-681-1474, email info@voicesforcasachildren.org or visit voicesforcasachildren.org/become-a-casa-volunteer.