

Volunteer Recruitment Talking Points

Douglas County CASA, Inc. is committed to recruiting a diverse group of CASA Volunteers who advocate for the best interest of children involved in the court system. We emphasize recruiting individuals of varied racial, ethnic, and sexual identities so our volunteers reflect the diversity of the children we serve. We strive to provide more equitable services and experiences for our children by connecting them with someone who can speak with them directly about their experiences.¹

What is a CASA volunteer?

- CASA stands for Court-Appointed Special Advocate
- CASAs are volunteers trained by CASA staff to advocate for children who have been abused and neglected, and are under the protection of the court in Douglas County, Kansas
- CASAs advocate on behalf of the child's best interests

Am I qualified to be a CASA Volunteer?

- 20+ years old
- Provide 4 non-relative references
- Demonstrate objectivity
- Respect confidentiality of all parties
- Respect issues of cultural diversity
- Commit approx. 3 hours/week to your case
- Commit to serve as a CASA volunteer for at least 1 year

What are the CASA Volunteer application and training processes like?

- Complete a CASA Volunteer Application
- Pre-training interview with a Volunteer Advocate Coordinator (VAC)
- KBI, DCF, county, state, and national background checks
- 30 hours of initial training; 6 hours in-service training annually

COVID Accommodations

- Complete application online
- Interview conducted virtually
- Self-guided, virtual training sessions
- Court hearings via video conference

¹ Adapted from Texas CASA's "Talking Points Available for CASA Programs Around Volunteer Recruitment & Diversity"

What do I do after I complete my training?

- Meet your CASA Volunteer Advocate Coordinator, a paid staff who will support you as you select and work your case
- Select a case with your Volunteer Advocate Coordinator
- Swear-in by the Douglas County juvenile court judge

How do I advocate for my CASA child?

- Connect with your CASA child at least once per month, virtually or in person
- Gather as much information as you can about the child, their family, and the circumstances surrounding why the child is in foster care
- Write what you learn and observe in your monthly reports and court reports
- Make recommendations to the court regarding the child's placement and support services
- Collaborate with biological and/or foster families, mental and medical health services, school, etc. to make sure the child's needs are met throughout the case

What do CASAs NOT do?

- Manage the child's case
 - Provide direct services
- Do anything that is the court's, child welfare contractor's, or state's responsibility

Let's be social!

- Website: www.dccasa.org
- Facebook: facebook.com/dccasaks
- Instagram: @dccasaks
- Twitter: @dccasaks
- YouTube Channel: Douglas County CASA, Inc._KS

Questions?

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