

WHO WE ARE

CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocate. When a child has been placed under the court's jurisdiction, the judge will often order a CASA volunteer to be assigned. The CASA volunteer will gather information from family members, social workers, school officials, health providers, and regularly spend time with the child. CASA volunteers assess the child's needs and make recommendations to the court in regards to the child's best interests.

CASA volunteers are not affiliated with the Kansas Department for Children and Families (KSDCF) or the foster care provider; they are not paid and work independently.

OUR IMPACT

Johnson & Wyandotte Counties



40% of children living in out-of-home placement have a CASA volunteer.



5,272 children have been served since 1985.



98% of children had the same CASA volunteer throughout their court involvement.

Help us reach every child who needs us.



DONATE

All donations are tax-deductible and help local children.



VOLUNTEER

Your time can support children. A caring heart is all you need.



GET INVOLVED

Provide resources or give in ways that fit your interest and expertise to advance CASA's mission.



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OUR MISSION

To provide a meaningful voice and connection that instills hope and builds resilience for children who have experienced abuse and neglect.

helping children THRIVE



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

**JOHNSON & WYANDOTTE
COUNTIES**



WHAT IS A CASA VOLUNTEER?

A CASA volunteer is a trained individual whose purpose is to advocate solely for the best interest of the child by looking at their needs from all perspectives and making recommendations accordingly in the form of a court report.

Their job is to:

- Give the child a voice during the court process.
- Represent the child's best interests as it relates to their physical and emotional well-being.
- Monitor court-ordered services for the child and family.

WHY DO CHILDREN NEED A CASA VOLUNTEER?

A CASA volunteer can provide a constant, reassuring presence for children who have been placed under the court's jurisdiction. The CASA volunteer regularly visits with the child and anyone involved in their life to assess and monitor the child's circumstances. This connection can build resilience and help children thrive.

WHAT KIND OF TRAINING DOES A CASA VOLUNTEER HAVE?

CASA volunteers must complete an application, pass reference and background checks including but not limited to the Kansas and Missouri Child Abuse registries and KBI and FBI background checks, and complete 30 hours of training to be certified. An additional 12 hours of continuing education must be completed each year to maintain certification.

HOW CAN YOU BEST HELP CASA?

CASA volunteers need your support to understand the child's circumstances. CASA volunteers are required to visit the child at their placement home and may also visit the child at school, daycare or other places that are a regular part of their life.

WHO HAS ACCESS TO COURT REPORTS?

CASA volunteer reports are confidential and submitted only to the assigned judge, attorneys and designated agencies involved in the child's case.

HOW IS THE CHILD'S CONFIDENTIALITY PROTECTED?

CASA volunteers have access to private and sensitive information such as court reports, school and health records, and are bound by the laws of confidentiality. CASA volunteers will only share important information with principle parties in the case (i.e. judge, caseworkers and attorneys).

WHO DOES THE CASA VOLUNTEER HAVE CONTACT WITH?

Most importantly, the CASA volunteer has regular contact with the child. CASA volunteers are also in contact with the child's family, social workers, Kansas Department for Children and Families as well as the foster care contractors. CASA volunteers also maintain contact with therapists, school staff, service providers and foster placements. CASA volunteers attend case planning conferences, communicate with the child's Guardian ad Litem, attend court hearings and any meetings related to the child's best interest.

