

CASA of Pike County CASA Volunteer Job Description

Role of the Court Appointed Special Advocate Volunteer

CASA of Pike County volunteer advocates serve as independent, third party “friends of the court.” CASA volunteer best interest advocacy is driven by the guiding principle that children grow and develop best with their family of origin if that can be safely achieved. CASA volunteers serve children from birth through the age of 18, and can serve with children up to 21, depending on circumstances, as defined by state statute.

A CASA volunteer is a trained community member who is appointed by a judge to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children in foster care in accordance with the PA Juvenile Act (Title 42 Act PA C.C. Sec. 6301 et.seq.).

Qualifications

- You must be 21 years of age or older
- Successfully complete the application process
- Participate in an interview with CASA staff members
- Submit at least three references not related to you, the volunteer
- Be selected into the program contingent upon satisfactory results from any background clearances/checks and reference checks.
- Complete and pass the necessary background clearances.
- Be able and willing to commit to one case until permanency is achieved (approx. 18-24 months)
- Be able and willing to commit to court time when your case is called up. Usually every 3 months.
- Ability to keep all case and court information completely confidential.
- Ability to communicate effectively, both written and orally.
- Ability to respect people from various backgrounds.
- Ability to transport self
- Follow guidelines set forth by CASA of Pike County in accordance with National CASA/GAL Association
- Attend an initial 30 hour in-class Pre-Service Training program adapted from the curriculum that National CASA/GAL Association provides
- Observe dependency court during the initial orientation and training program
- Complete the Mandated Reporter training
- Participate in a minimum of 12 hours of in-service training annually
- CASA volunteers are expected to devote the necessary time to serve as a Court Appointed Special Advocate and are encouraged to spend 10-15 hours per month volunteering.

CASA of Pike County provides equal employment opportunities to all volunteers without regard to age, race, ethnicity, national origin (ancestry), color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, disability or physical challenge, or any other prohibited basis in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws.