

Requirements of Becoming a CASA

As a CASA volunteer, there are certain requirements you must meet prior to actually being appointed a case with a foster child.

A CASA volunteer is required to:

- Be 21 years of age or older
- Attend a one-hour CASA orientation.
- Complete a Volunteer Application.
- Participate in a screening interview with CASA staff.
- Successfully pass a criminal background check and provide documentation of a safe driving record.
- Attend all training sessions and scheduled court tours.
- Complete 10 hours of online coursework in CASA University.
- Participate in a final interview with a Case Coordinator.
- Participate in a swearing-in ceremony conducted by the presiding Tulare County Juvenile Court Judge, where you become an officer of the court and mandated child abuse reporter.
- Meet with your CASA Case Coordinator to receive your case assignment and to schedule an introduction to the child and other parties involved in the case.

Once sworn in by the court, as a CASA volunteer, you now will:

- Spend quality time with the child or children you are appointed to.
- Communicate regularly with the child(ren)'s parents, relatives, teachers, doctors, therapists, caregivers and anyone else involved in the child's life.
- Serve as a fact finder for the Juvenile Court judge by thoroughly researching the background of the assigned case.
- Attend monthly Continuing Education training.
- Participate in case meetings and review case files.
- Gather and document information on your case.
- Formulate recommendations on what is in the best interest of the children.
- Submit a court report and present your recommendations to the judge in the courtroom.
- Speak on behalf of the child in the courtroom, representing his or her best interests.

What else other information should I be aware of when becoming a CASA Volunteer?

- Again, you must be at least 21-years-old or older and be able to pass extensive reference, Child Protective Services, sex offender registry and criminal background checks before becoming a CASA volunteer.
- Volunteers should have effective oral and written communication skills and comfort with computer technology including email and word processing.
- You may not be a current foster parent or be in the process of adopting a child from Child Protective Services.
- If an attorney, you may not concurrently be appointed to any cases involving Child Protective Services in Tulare County.