*CASA of Liberty/Chambers Counties advocates for the best interest of abused and neglected children in the court system,*

*through the training and support of community volunteers.*



**Thank you for your interest in becoming a volunteer for**

**CASA of Liberty/Chambers Counties.**

**APPLICANTS ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

Individuals desiring to volunteer with CASA of Liberty/Chambers Counties will be asked to Submit to national and local background criminal checks, CPS Central Abuse/Neglect Registry Check, and reference checks.

All criminal background checks will include:

1. Sex-offender registry check;
2. Finger-print based criminal background check from the FBI
3. CPS Central Abuse/Neglect Check

**Applicants who do not agree to these checks cannot be accepted**

CASA cannot accept applicants if their criminal history results include; guilty pleas, pleas of no contest, acceptance of deferred adjudication, and charges (whether pending or not, felony or misdemeanor)

Involving violence, child abuse or neglect, or sex- or drug- related offenses of the individual or of someone whom the individual resides or regularly comes in contact.

**APPLICATION PROCESS**

Attached is our Volunteer Application, Criminal History Background Check Authorization, and Texas CPS/DPS Central Registry Check Authorization, and Volunteer Description.

**CASA VOLUNTEER APPLICATION**

|  |
| --- |
| **CASA VOLUNTEER INFORMATION** |
| Last Name | First | M.I. | DOB  |
| Street Address | Apartment/Unit# |
| City | State | Zip |
| Phone | Cell # | E-mail |
| Work Phone | Fax No. | Social Security # |
| Marital Status | Driver’s License # | Driver’s License State |
| Do you drive:  YES  NO Do you have access to a car?  YES  NO |
| Do you have children?  YES  NO If Yes, how many? Ages? |
| Do you speak a foreign language?  YES  NO If Yes, which language(s)? |
| Are you currently employed?  YES  NO If yes, who is your current employer? |
| Are you part time or full time? Can we contact you at work?  YES  NO |
| How did you find out about our CASA program? |
| **EDUCATION** |
| High School | Address |
| From To | Did you graduate? YES  NO  |  |
| College | Address |
| From To | Did you graduate? YES  NO  | Degree |
| Other | Address |
| From To | Did you graduate? YES  NO  | Degree |
| **EMPLOYMENT HISTORY** |
| Company | Phone |
| Address | Supervisor |
| Job Title | Dates of Employment |
| Responsibilities |
| May we contact your previous supervisor for a reference?  YES  NO |
| Company | Phone  |
| Address | Supervisor |
| Job Title | Dates of Employment |
| Responsibilities |
| May we contact your previous supervisor for a reference?  YES  NO |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **EMPLOYMENT HISTORY (cont’d)** |
| Company | Phone  |
| Address | Supervisor |
| Job Title | Dates of Employment: |
| Responsibilities: |
| May we contact your previous supervisor for a reference?  YES  NO |
| **REFERENCES -** *Please list four references - two personal and two professional – no family members*  |
| NAME PHONE RELATIONSHIP |
| 1) |
| 2) |
| 3) |
| 4) |
| **COMMUNITY AFFILIATIONS/CLUB MEMBERSHIPS/VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE** |
| Agency/Organization | Dates of Involvement | Activities |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| Who may we contact in case of an emergency? |
|  |
|  Name Address Phone Number |
|  |
| **DISCLAIMER AND SIGNATURE** |
| I understand that CASA does not accept an applicant whose criminal history check results include: guilty pleas, pleas of no contest, acceptance of deferred adjudication, and charges (whether pending or not, felony or misdemeanor) involving violence, child abuse or neglect, or sex- or drug-related offenses of the individual, or of someone with whom the individual resides or regularly comes into contact.I certify that my answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. |
| \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Signature Date |
|  |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
| **MISC INFORMATION & CONSENT** |
| Have you ever been convicted of a crime other than a traffic violation?  YES  NO  |
| If yes, what charge? | Date of arrest, filed or conviction: |
| Court in which conviction was entered, or case is pending: |
| Do you have any training, experience, or exposure to any of the following areas? |
| \_\_\_\_\_Child Abuse | \_\_\_\_\_Drug/Alcohol Abuse Programs | \_\_\_\_\_Child Care |
| \_\_\_\_\_Child Development | \_\_\_\_\_Foster Care | \_\_\_\_\_Psychology |
| \_\_\_\_\_Child Welfare | \_\_\_\_\_Public Speaking | \_\_\_\_\_Counseling |
| \_\_\_\_\_Law Enforcement | \_\_\_\_\_Social Work | \_\_\_\_\_Court System |
| \_\_\_\_\_Writing | \_\_\_\_\_Mental Health | \_\_\_\_\_Public Relations |
| Please Describe: | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
|  |
| Are you willing to commit **one year** of volunteer service?  YES  NO |
| As a CASA you will be required to attend court hearings for the children you represent. Will you be able to arrange your schedule to attend these hearings?  YES  NO |
| What are your reasons for wanting to participate as a CASA volunteer? |  |
|  |
| Are you prepared to complete **30 hours of pre-service** training (**3 hours of pre-service court room** observation), and a minimum of **12 hours per year** of **in-service** training?  YES  NO |
|  |
|  |
| **VOLUNTEER COMMITMENT:**Participating in the CASA program requires a significant volunteer commitment, requiring a special type of person, willing to work difficult and sometimes troubling cases. A CASA must keep information confidential, remain professional in demeanor, agree to program supervision, and agree to meet deadlines. In addition, he/she must be willing to devote an average of 5 – 15 hours each month for the duration of the case. Finally, a CASA must have a certain degree of flexibility in his/her schedule, to allow for court appearances on days when they submit reports, and for visits to family members involved in the case, either at their home, or, at another agreed upon location. **Are you willing to accept these responsibilities? \_\_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_\_No****HOW MANY HOURS A WEEK CAN YOU GIVE TO THE PROGRAM? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_hrs./month**I understand that by submitting this application, I am authorizing inquiries to be made concerning my suitability as a volunteer court appointed special advocate. I certify that all the above is true, and that any untruthful or misleading answers may be cause for my volunteer application to be rejected, or my volunteer position to be terminated.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
|  Applicant’s Signature  | Date |



**Agreement to Obtain**

**DFPS Background Checks**

**Criminal Background Checks**

**Sex Offender Registry Checks**

**Motor Vehicle Record Checks**

Due to the confidential nature of serving children who have been abused, neglected or abandoned, as a matter of routing, CASA of Liberty/Chambers Counties requests each prospective volunteer comply with obtaining DFPS background checks, DPS checks, Criminal Background checks including FBC fingerprint checks, Sex Offender Registry checks, Motor Vehicle Record checks and SSN checks.

In order to comply with this requirement, you will be required to complete the DFPS Background form in your packet. The following information will be requested:

 1. Full Name 5. Current Address

 2. Other Names Used 6. Previous Address

 3. Date of Birth 7. Race and Ethnicity

 4. Social Security Number 8. Email Address

We ask you to complete the information listed above **before** your initial interview. The Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) is responsible for requests and will complete the search.

Do you have any problems or concerns that may be raised by reference checks with the child abuse registry or criminal background check?

I understand, if I do not comply with this procedure, I will not be able to become a CASA Advocate, employee, or Board member.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature Date

DFPS Background Check: Information Collection Form For CASA Employees/Volunteers

Middle Name

Last Name

First Name

Other names or spellings used (married, maiden ,alias, ect.) –First, Middle, Last

Email Address of the Subject of the Background Check:

Eligible for Case Connection: Yes  No 

List other places you have resided (for a minimum of the past 5 years)

Ethnicity (check one, only)

Hispanic  Not Hispanic

Unable to Determine

Race (check all applicable)

Asian  Black White  Am Indian/AK Native

Nat Hawaii/Pac Island  Unable to Determine (or, none of the above)

SSN

Date of Birth

Alternate Telephone Number

Residence Telephone Number

Zip Code

State

County

City

Residence Street Address

Gender:

 Male  Female

I am the person listed above and the information I provided is true and correct. I grant permission to the CASA program to request a Texas Abuse and Neglect background check through the Texas Department of Family Protective Services on my behalf

Signature Date of Consent:

**DFPS Security Agreement For CASA Employees/Volunteers**

This agreement is for individuals who are not employees of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services ( DFPS),

But who will be provided confidential information as part of a project, contract, or agreement between DFPS and the organization the individual represents

I understand and acknowledge that information made available to me by the Department of family and Protective Services contains data that is considered confidential under law. I will use this information with discretion in preforming my duties and responsibilities as a CASA staff or volunteer and will disclose this information to other individuals only to the extent that it is specially authorized under the contract or agreement in places between my organization and DFP. If at any time a question or problem arises with regard to the release of information, I will not release information until I am so authorized. Under no circumstances will I access or release confidential information for any purpose other than in the performances of my duties and responsibilities as a CASA Staff or volunteer as they relate to the contract or agreement with DFPS. I understand that if I use this information in an unauthorized manner, I may be subjected to persecution under one or more applicable statutes and will no longer be allowed access to the information provided to my organization

If I am eligible for access to Case Connection, I acknowledge that I have read and understand the DFPS Security Requirements provided to me as part of this security agreement.

Attached please find: DFPS Requirements and Guidelines for CASA organizations.

 Signature Date

# PRE-TRAINING INTERVIEW

Volunteer: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Interview conducted by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Interviewer should set stage for interview by explain that CASA has a responsibility to explore the volunteer’s personal relationships & family as this is the background upon which the volunteer will draw values & judgements. Explain that you will be taking notes along the way so you can remember. Be sure reference information is complete and appropriate.

1. What is toughest decision you ever made? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Describe stressful situations for you. What do you do with stress? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. In what kinds of situations do you get angry? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Do you have any personal experience with criminal, juvenile or family court?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Most cases require an Advocate to commit for at least one year to 18 months.

How would you work this into your personal life? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Do you feel you would be open to continued education, CASA guidelines and standards?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Have you ever been involved in a custody dispute? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Have you ever had any interaction with a child protection agency or department?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. In your opinion, what would make a perfect parent? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Do you believe people have the ability to change? If so, can you give me an example from your past where you gave someone a second chance? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Please discuss how your childhood experiences shaped your adult life.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Do you expect any change in marital status, employment, or place of residence within the next year? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. As an Advocate for children in the foster care system you will come into contact with families that have different belief systems, values and backgrounds. Share with me your experience with people from different cultures and how you will be able work with families that are diverse? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Do you feel that you have any prejudices/biases that may present a challenge for you when working with certain families? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Volunteer Demographic Information**

Quarter/Year \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Last name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ First name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Age of Volunteer \_\_\_\_\_ Gender Marital Status**

 Female \_\_\_\_\_ Divorced \_\_\_\_\_

 Male \_\_\_\_\_ Married \_\_\_\_\_

 Separated \_\_\_\_\_

 Single \_\_\_\_\_

 Widow(er) \_\_\_\_\_

**Language** **Ethnicity**

English \_\_\_\_\_ Hispanic/Latino \_\_\_\_\_

Spanish \_\_\_\_\_ Not Hispanic or Latino \_\_\_\_\_

Sign \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Race Career Type Education**

African American \_\_\_ Attorney \_\_\_ College \_\_\_

Asian American \_\_\_ Education Prof \_\_\_ GED \_\_\_

Bi-racial \_\_\_ Government/Military \_\_\_ High School \_\_\_

Caucasian \_\_\_ Legal \_\_\_ Post Grad \_\_\_

Hispanic/Latino \_\_\_ Medical Prof \_\_\_ Some College \_\_\_

Multi-racial \_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_

**Income** **Employment Status**  **How You Heard About CASA**

$15,001-20,000 \_\_\_ Full Time \_\_\_ Agency/Prof \_\_\_

$20,001-30,000 \_\_\_ Part Time \_\_\_ Business/Corp \_\_\_

$30,001-40,000 \_\_\_ Not Employed \_\_\_ Event \_\_\_

$40,001-50,000 \_\_\_ Retired \_\_\_ Flyer \_\_\_

$50,001-60,000 \_\_\_ Student \_\_\_ Friend \_\_\_

$60,001-70,000 \_\_\_ Internet \_\_\_

$70,001 + \_\_\_ Media \_\_\_

 Referral Agency \_\_\_

 Religious Org. \_\_\_

 Theta \_\_\_

 Other \_\_\_

**ADVOCATE INTERESTS**

Do you have any experience working with children? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Please list activity and ages of children. Professional or volunteer?

What are your strengths and weaknesses? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever applied to this or any other CASA programs in the past? Explain where and when:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been hospitalized for an emotional problem? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Do you now or have you ever had a substance abuse problem? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What values are important to your family? What is your most important value? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have personal experience with any of the following?

 Child Abuse? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Foster Care? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Child Welfare? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Domestic Violence? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Victim of violent crime? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been fired from a job? Why? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What type supervision do you work best with? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any kind of health impairments? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**CASA ADVOCATE PREFERENCES**

Do you have a preference regarding ages of children in your case(s)?

Any \_\_\_\_ Infants\_\_\_\_ 18 mos. to 5 \_\_\_\_\_ 6 to 11 \_\_\_\_\_ 12 to 18 \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a preference as to:

 Gender: Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_ Either \_\_\_\_\_

 Number of Children: One \_\_\_\_\_ Sibling group \_\_\_\_\_ Either \_\_\_\_\_

 Geographic Area: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Are there specific disabilities that you would prefer to NOT work with? No \_\_\_\_\_\_

 Cardiac \_\_\_\_\_ Cerebral Palsy \_\_\_\_\_ Circulatory \_\_\_\_\_ Hearing \_\_\_\_\_ Respiratory \_\_\_\_\_

 Learning Disabilities \_\_\_\_\_ Mental Retardation \_\_\_\_\_ Mobility \_\_\_\_\_ Neurological \_\_\_\_\_

 Psychological \_\_\_\_\_ Reactive Attachment Disorder \_\_\_\_\_

 Other\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Are there any types of abusive situations that you would prefer to NOT work with? No \_\_\_\_\_

 Abandonment \_\_\_\_\_ Educational Neglect \_\_\_\_\_ Emotional Abuse \_\_\_\_\_

 Medical Neglect \_\_\_\_\_ Physical Abuse \_\_\_\_\_ Sexual Abuse \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any disabilities? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

 Cardiac \_\_\_\_\_ Cerebral Palsy \_\_\_\_\_ Circulatory \_\_\_\_\_ Hearing \_\_\_\_\_ Respiratory \_\_\_\_\_

 Learning Disabilities \_\_\_\_\_ Mobility \_\_\_\_\_ Neurological \_\_\_\_\_ Psychological \_\_\_\_\_

 Other\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What would you do if a parent told you to “mind your own damn business”? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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How would you respond when a parent asks you, “How would you know what it’s like to be in my shoes? How can you possibly understand?” \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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*By signing below, I assure that everything on this form and my application is true.*

**Signature**

**Print Your Name**

**Date**

*EQUAL OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT - It is the policy of CASA of Liberty/Chambers Counties to implement affirmatively equal service to all clients without regard to race, religion, sexual orientation, group, age, gender, or national origin.*

**Frequently Asked Questions**

***Do I have* to *be a lawyer or social worker?***

No. People from all walks of life become CASAs. After you have been accepted into the CASA
program, you will receive a minimum of 30 hours of training to prepare you for your work as a
CASA. You will receive ongoing support from professional CASA staff.

***What kinds* of *people serve as CASA volunteers?***

Being a CASA volunteer requires no specialized degrees or legal experience. It does require
special people over age of 21 who have:

A concern for children;

A genuine desire to help;

The ability to remain objective;

The maturity to deal with emotional situations;

The commitment to complete a 30-hour minimum training course;

Sensitivity to people who are different from themselves;

Access to transportation and a flexible schedule; and

A willingness to devote at least one year to a child's case.

***Do I have time for this?***

Most CASA volunteers work full time and find the *CASA* experience flexible enough to
accommodate their schedules. You will go to court about 4-5 times a year and attend a few
daytime meetings. The rest of a CASA volunteer's work is done on his or her own time - visiting
the child, reviewing records and reading and writing reports. You will meet, emai1 and call others
involved in the case. Throughout a child's case, volunteers typically spend an average of 15
hours a month, including travel time and phone calls.

***Can I handle this emotionally?***

CASA volunteers are assigned to a case after the alleged child abuse or neglect has occurred and the child is placed in foster care. The CASA volunteer’s focus is on determining the child’s current and future needs. CASA staff provides emotional support and guidance throughout the case and accompanies volunteers to court hearings.

***What kinds of children will I be working with?***

You will be working with children who have been removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect. These children could be living in an emergency shelter, a foster home, a residential treatment center or a relative’s home. They range in age from newborn to teenager and in numbers from one child on a case to a large sibling group. Volunteers can choose an age range that they prefer to work with and also whether they’d prefer to work with a sibling group or only one child. Our goal is always to provide a CASA to every child who needs one.

***Will I be safe?***

CASA volunteers are never expected or encouraged to place themselves in dangerous situations. The work of CASA is challenging, but you will always have the support of a CASA staff person.

***How do I know what to recommend to the judge in a case?***

CASA volunteers make recommendations based on the time they spend with the child, the review of records and information you gather in interviews with the caseworker, the attorney for the child, the foster parents, teachers, relatives, parents, and the CASA supervisor.

***Why would the judge listen to me?***

The judge appoints CASA to represent the best interest of the child and to make informed recommendations to the court about what you think is best interests of the child. Judges respect CASA volunteers and take their recommendations into account when making decisions.

***Will my time make a difference?***

Absolutely! CASA volunteers offer children hope and assistance as the children go through a very difficult time in their lives. And, CASA volunteers are often the one constant, strong voice advocating on behalf of children in care. As a result, children represented by CASA are more likely to:

* Receive the services and resources they and their families need,
* Maintain stable placements while in foster case, and
* Avoid the court system once their case is dismissed

***How does a CASA volunteer differ from an attorney?***

A CASA volunteer does not provide legal representation. A CASA volunteer takes into account what a child may want and speaks specifically to what is in the best interest of the child.

***Are there any other agencies or groups that provide the same service?***

No. There are other child advocacy organizations, but CASA is the only program where volunteers are appointed by the court to represent a child’s best interests. While attorneys are appointed to represent the child’s legal interests and advocate for what the child ***wants***, CASA’s duty is to advocate for what the child ***needs***.