
Education:

High School (circle last year completed) 9 10 11 12

College (circle last year completed) 1 2 3 4 area of study/degree

Graduate (circle last year completed) 1 2 3 4 area of study/degree

Are you currently attending school? yes no

If yes, where:

Area of study/degree objective:

Are you bilingual? yes no If yes, specify language(s): _____ Ethnicity (optional): _____

How did you become aware of the CASA Program? _____

Special skills and/or recreational interests: _____

Describe prior volunteer experience: _____

Have your life experiences included working with people of races and social economic circumstances different than your own? Please describe: _____

Time availability:

CASA of Los Angeles requires a two-year commitment. The time demands for CASA volunteers vary with the case assignment. We estimate volunteers devote an **average** of 5 hours per week to case activities. Some activities may be completed by telephone. Court appearances and other case activities will require you to be available during the regular workweek hours. (*i.e. contact with CASA supervisors, social workers, teachers, therapists, etc.*) Court hearings are scheduled in advance and ample notice is given, barring any unforeseen circumstances. Do you have any particular time restrictions? If so, please explain.

Training:

Successful completion of all training is required for acceptance into the CASA program. Attendance at all training sessions is mandatory. Can you commit to the training with advance notice? yes no
(*Many employers allow and encourage employee volunteer service to the community.*)

Travel:

The CASA program serves children throughout Los Angeles County. Traveling is necessary as the duties of a Court Appointed Special Advocate include regular, face-to-face contact with a child wherever the child is residing. Traveling may also be necessary for interviews or conferences with other parties related to the case or to conduct on-site assessments. Volunteers may claim mileage reimbursement.

Liability:

All volunteers are required to maintain automobile liability coverage, which satisfies the requirements under California law.
Note: The CASA program requires annual verification of automobile insurance and valid California Driver's License.

Security Clearance:

Please read and complete the security clearance form attached to this application. All applicants accepted for training will be fingerprinted for a background check conducted by the Los Angeles Superior Court.

Have you ever been:

- Arrested for a crime against a child? yes no
- Arrested for a violent felony? yes no
- Arrested for a sex crime? yes no

Health Background:

CASA volunteers deal with sensitive issues that may be emotionally demanding. For this reason, the following questions are asked with the understanding that all information is confidential.

- 1. Do you have any physical limitations? yes no If yes, please describe.
- 2. Do you take any medications? yes no
- 3. Have you ever participated in counseling or psychotherapy? yes no
- 4. Do you have personal experience with issues related to any of the following:
 - a. Child abuse _____
 - b. Domestic violence _____
 - c. Substance abuse _____
- 5. Have you ever been prescribed any medications for mental health issues? yes no

Personal Statement:

Please use a separate sheet of paper to respond to the following and attach to the application:

- 1. Describe your childhood.
- 2. State any personal or professional experiences you have had concerning issues of: physical, sexual and/or emotional abuse or neglect or abandonment of children.
- 3. State any personal or professional experiences you have had concerning issues of domestic violence and/or substance abuse.
- 4. Why would you like to become a CASA volunteer?
- 5. How do you hope to benefit from this experience?
- 6. Have you or anyone you know ever been involved in a dependency court proceeding involving a child in the foster care system? yes no If yes, please explain.

References:

Please list three **non-relative** references who have know you for at least 2 years and can describe your personal and/or professional capacity to work as a volunteer with CASA. At least one reference should be from employment or volunteer experiences. These references will be contacted and asked to complete a reference questionnaire. All references are confidential.

| | | |
|----------|-----------------------------------|--------|
| 1. Name: | Relationship: | Phone: |
| Address: | City: State: | Zip: |
| 2. Name: | Relationship: | Phone: |
| Address: | City: State: | Zip: |
| 3. Name: | Relationship: | Phone: |
| Address: | City: State: | Zip: |

AGREEMENT

As a potential CASA volunteer, I understand that I must meet the following preliminary qualifications: (Please initial.)

- 1. I am over 21 years of age. _____
- 2. I do not have any criminal convictions. _____
- 3. I own a personal vehicle and am willing to drive in my capacity as a CASA volunteer. _____
- 4. I am not a foster parent nor do I receive financial compensation from DCFS or any DCFS contractor. _____
- 5. Upon successful completion of the screening and volunteer training, I will be expected to serve approximately 20 hours a month for at least 24 months as a Court Appointed Special Advocate. _____
- 6. As an applicant to be a CASA volunteer, I agree to:

Submit to an investigation of suitability as a CASA, including but not limited to, being fingerprinted, criminal background check (FBI and the Department of Justice), and Department of Motor Vehicles records check and/or provide CASA with a copy of your current driver's license, DMV printout and auto insurance annually. _____

Participate in on-going supervision and continuing education training classes, cooperating fully with staff and adhering to all agency approved report-writing criteria. _____

As an applicant of CASA of Los Angeles I understand and acknowledge that CASA of Los Angeles is not obligated in any way to accept me into the volunteer training program by submission of this application.

I understand that CASA of Los Angeles retains the right to refuse any individual they feel would not act in a way that would serve the best interests of the child. CASA of Los Angeles is not required to state the reason for declining an applicant into the program if they so choose.

I understand that any applicant found to have been convicted of or having current charges pending for a felony or misdemeanor involving a sex offense, child abuse, or child neglect must not be accepted as a CASA volunteer.

Signature of Applicant:

Date:

Please review your application for completeness, attach personal statement and security clearance form and return to:

**CASA of Los Angeles
Edmund D. Edelman Children's Court
201 Centre Plaza Drive, Suite 3
Monterey Park, CA 91754-2142**