

Change A Child's Story



The Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Program of Iowa trains and supports community volunteers to advocate for a safe and permanent home for children who are in the child welfare system. CASA volunteers ensure the voice of each child is heard and their best interests are pursued.

What does a CASA volunteer do?



Inquires : Learn about the child and family; talk to all parties involved.



Facilitates: Identify resources, collaborate with professionals, report to the court.



Advocates: Make recommendations about the child's needs and wishes.



Monitors: Follow-up & check-in to make sure the child receives services.

Who qualifies?



An adult who cares about children, passes a background check, & completes 30 hours of pre-service training



Someone who has time to volunteer and can commit to 5 to 10 hours a month



Someone with good communication skills, both verbal and written



1-866-448-4608



hhs.iowa.gov/CASA

CASA volunteers help:



Encourage healthy family connections.



Advocate for the best interests of the child.



Support the judge with individualized, informed recommendations.



A CASA Volunteer:

- Successfully completes all training requirements, including 12 hours of continuing education each calendar year.
- Maintains the confidentiality of all information received while serving as a CASA volunteer.
- Stays in regular contact with the child's family, HHS, service providers, attorneys, school staff, medical officials, and other key stakeholders.
- Conducts in-person visits with the child at least once every 30 days (at a minimum).
- Gathers and reviews information from court orders, court reports, service provider reports, school records, physical and mental health evaluations, and other written documentation filed with the court.
- Attends staffings, appropriate meetings, and foster care reviews as needed.
- Submits written CASA reports to be filed with the court.
- Attends court hearings to advocate on behalf of the child.
- Confers regularly with the CASA Coordinator and Coach to share information about case-related activities, seek advice, or obtain assistance.

How to volunteer:

1. Visit hhs.iowa.gov/CASA or call 1-866-448-4608
2. Learn about the program
3. Complete the application



The CASA program is overseen by the Child Advocacy Board, which became part of the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services July 1, 2023. CASA of Iowa is affiliated with the National CASA/GAL Association for Children.