



A Court Appointed Special Advocate, CASA, is a trained volunteer, sworn in as an Officer of the Court and appointed to a specific juvenile court case by a Judge. A CASA is the voice for abused and neglected children who are living in foster care. Working in conjunction with case professionals and attorneys, a CASA advocates for the best interest of a child. A CASA meets with the child at least monthly and attends monthly team meetings with case professionals, parents and/or foster parents. A CASA will meet with teachers, daycare providers, medical and mental health providers, and other service providers as needed. At least every six months, a CASA will write a court report with recommendations to the court. A CASA will also attend periodic court hearings.

A CASA receives 30 hours of training scheduled over a five week period and includes 3 hours of online training and 3 hours of in-person training each week. The in-person session is scheduled twice a week providing flexibility to choose either a daytime or an evening class (see schedule below for sessions offering this option). A CASA is also required to attend 12 hours of on-going training annually. On-going training opportunities are provided throughout the year by CASA for Douglas County, and by partner agencies and non-profit organizations. On-going training can also be acquired through online presentations and readings.

Training schedule:

2017

August 22 – September 19	Tuesday 5:30 – 8:30 or Thursday 1 – 4
October 3 – October 31	Tuesday 5:30 – 8:30 or Thursday 1 – 4
November 14 – December 12	Tuesday 5:30 – 8:30

**All Week 5 sessions will be held on Tuesday evening only*

2018

January 9 – February 6	Tuesday 5:30 – 8:30 or Thursday 1 – 4
February 27 – March 27	Tuesday 5:30 – 8:30
April 17 – May 15	Tuesday 5:30 – 8:30 or Thursday 1 – 4
May 29 – June 26	Thursday 1 – 4
July 17 – August 14	Tuesday 5:30 – 8:30 or Thursday 1 – 4
September 4 – October 2	Thursday 5:30 – 8:30
October 23 – November 20	Tuesday 5:30 – 8:30 or Thursday 1 - 4

Please contact Deanna Wagner, Recruitment Coordinator, CASA for Douglas County
 402-932-5683 or dwagner@casaomaha.org
 2412 St. Mary’s Avenue, Omaha, NE 68105
www.casaomaha.org



Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

CASA for Douglas County Mission Statement: Training, empowering, and inspiring volunteer advocates to improve the lives of abused and neglected children.

Essential Volunteer Duties:

- Meet with the child on a consistent basis, a minimum of one time per month.
- Attend meetings with case professionals, parents and/or foster parents.
- Establish and maintain contact with schools, therapists, medical professionals and other professionals involved in the child’s life.
- Monitor court ordered services to ensure effectiveness, and advocate for additional services as needed.
- Document observations, facts and circumstances of the child’s situation in a written court report including recommendations for placement, services and permanency.
- Maintain complete records of contacts, hours and mileage.
- Attend court hearings.

Participation and/or Support:

- CASA Holiday Party in December or January and Volunteer Recognition Event in April.
- Omaha Gives in May and the Superhero Run in July.

Training:

- Complete 30 hours of pre-service training.
- Complete 12 hours of continuing education training annually.

Minimum Requirements:

- Able to commit to a minimum of 2 years.
- Willing to donate 8 to 10 hours per month.
- Able to commit to training hours as noted above.
- Attend court hearings or arrange for supervisor attendance.
- Able to maintain objectivity and professionalism in dealing with the child and all other parties involved.
- Ability to maintain confidentiality.
- Possess excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- Possess a working knowledge of Microsoft Word, Email and basic computer skills.
- Must have reliable transportation.
- Must be at least 21 years of age.
- Must pass a background check, have a valid driver’s license/identification, valid auto insurance (if applicable), valid phone number and have a permanent address. (Note: the background check is run every four years.)

CASA for Douglas County is a member of the National and Nebraska CASA Associations and conforms to the National Standards and Code of Ethics. CASA provides equal volunteer opportunities to all applicants without regard to race, color, religion, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, military status, or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.