

BENEFITS AND QUALIFICATIONS OF A CASA

Benefits of Being a CASA Volunteer:

In a Delaware report on Best CASA Models. Volunteers across the country were asked to identify their most important reasons for volunteering and they responded **“the overwhelming motivation is to help children.”** Other reasons include:

- Active participation in the court and child welfare system that produces significant and positive results in the life of a child.
- Experience that may apply toward career advancement.
- Increased knowledge of child welfare issues and the court process.
- Belonging to a group of individuals who are concerned with similar issues.
- Being active and involved in the community.
- Making professional contacts in the field of child welfare.
- The opportunity to help improve life for a child.

Qualifications :

CASA volunteer qualities that are not tangible include; He or she should be emotionally mature, stable, objective, have experienced satisfying relationships with children, and be receptive to individual lifestyle choices. The volunteer should also possess a sense of self-worth, exhibit self-assurance, be able to deal with hostility and rejection, and be flexible enough to accommodate change.

- No specific education level required
- Must be 21 years of age
- Open minded (will not try to impose certain values on other people) and objective
- Self confident
- Keep **all** information confidential
- Work within established CASA guidelines
- Common sense
- Basic understanding of child development and family relationships
- Good communications skills both orally and written
- Be able to gather and record factual information accurately

Communication:

Successful CASA volunteers have some common skills that enable them to perform their duties effectively and efficiently. They are able to apply the knowledge gained through the pre-service training and consultation with the program staff. Skills include:

- Interview, observe, listen and analyze written material;
- Write clearly and concisely; investigate and do research;
- Plan and set goals;
- Make decisions;
- Organize tasks;
- Pay attention to detail and accuracy;
- Be assertive;
- Be a credible witness;
- Negotiate;
- Follow guidelines and policy; and
- Be tactful