

A Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) is a trained community volunteer who is appointed by a judge to advocate for the best interests of an abused, neglected, or abandoned child in the juvenile court proceedings.

The CASA volunteer gathers information about the child's situation, attends court proceedings, and makes recommendations to the judge, so that the judge has important information to make a decision regarding the future of that child. The CASA volunteer advocates for the safety, permanency, and well-being of the child.

Qualifications

Sincere about the well-being of children

- At least 21 years of age
- Pass criminal background checks
- Good verbal & written communication skills
- Ability to be objective and non-judgmental
- Commitment to CASA program for at least 18 months or until the case is resolved.

How To Become A CASA

- Complete an application, including 3 personals/professional.
- references
- Undergo criminal background checks.
- Be interviewed by a CASA staff person.
- Complete 30 hours of training
- Be sworn in by a judge.

To get started, contact Nathaniel Williams Outreach Coordinator at CASA of Laramie County: 307.222.1902 or nwilliams@casalc.org
Or Program Coordinator

Ryan Reynolds rreynolds@casalc.org

Responsibilities Of CASA Volunteer

- · Visit the child monthly.
- · Explain the role of a CASA volunteer
- Keep the child informed of all aspects of the court proceedings.
- Gather independent information about the child to make recommendations to the judge in the child's best interests
- Seek cooperative solutions with other participants in the child's case
- Interview the parents, guardians, or caretakers, social worker, and other service providers.
- Review Records related to the family.
- Prepare written reports for court hearings.

- Attend and participate in court hearings and other related meetings
- · Identify potential resources within in the family and
- · community to meet the child's needs
- · Keep all records and information confidential
- Monitor provisions of service plans and court orders
- Ensure the child's wishes are known to the judge
- Advocate for the child in the community
- Consult with the local CASA program staff or support and guidance
- Maintain focus of the child until permanency is achieved.

Responsibilities Of CASA Volunteer

As a CASA volunteer, you will ultimately help to Change a Child's Story for a brighter future. You can help to end the cycle of abuse and neglect. Among many other benefits, you will have an opportunity to learn about the juvenile court system and become actively involved in your community.



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