



YAKIMA COUNTY JUVENILE COURT CASA /GAL PROGRAM VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

A CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) is an advocate for a child, appointed by the court to be the "eyes and ears of the court", and to make recommendations to the court in the best interest of the child.

PROCESS FOR BECOMING A CASA VOLUNTEER

Return the completed application and signed releases for background checks.

Attend an interview with a CASA coordinator at Juvenile Court.

Attend 30 hours of specialized training.

Be sworn in by the commissioner and receive your first case assignment after being accepted into the CASA Program.

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Date of Application: _____

Maiden Name/Alias: _____ Social Security #: _____ - _____ - _____

Driver's License #: _____ State: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____ Language(s) Spoken Besides English: _____

Do you have access to an operable automobile? [] Yes [] No Is it insured? [] Yes [] No

Name of insurance company: _____ Phone: _____

Highest grade completed and diploma/degree earned: _____

School name and year of diploma/degree: _____

Major area of study and/or special training: _____

Are you currently attending school? [] No [] Yes (School Name & Location) _____

Will you receive academic credit for your volunteer work? [] Yes [] No

Please list any current or past organizations for which you have volunteered, dates of service, and a brief description of your duties:

List current community activities: _____

How did you hear of this CASA volunteer opportunity? _____

Current or most recent employment; name and location: _____ Start/End Dates _____

Brief description of duties: _____

Work Phone _____ Can We Call You at Work? [] Yes [] No Work Hours: _____

Previous employment for the past 10 years. Name, location, your title, and dates employed (may attach resume): _____

Have you had any personal or professional experience(s) with Child Welfare, Foster Care, or Dependency Court System? [] Yes [] No

If yes, please explain: _____

Experience with other agencies offering child services? _____

As a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate), you will be required to attend court hearings for the children you represent. These hearings can be held on any weekday between 9:00 am and 4:30 pm, usually with reasonable advanced notice.

Will you be able to arrange your schedule to attend these hearings? [] Yes [] No If no, why? _____

Are you willing to commit your volunteer service to a child for the duration of his/her case, usually at least 18 months. [] Yes [] No

If less than 18 months, why? _____

Have you ever been arrested or convicted of a crime other than a traffic offense? [] No [] Yes If yes, please explain the charge(s):

Dates of any convictions & court location: _____

Do you consent to a check of your criminal records, child abuse registry and DCYF records including being fingerprinted? [] Yes [] No

Yakima County CASA/GAL program does not accept any applicant found to have been convicted of or having charges pending for a felony or misdemeanor involving a sex offense, child abuse or neglect, or related acts that would pose risks to children or the CASA/GAL program's credibility.

Written Questions

Please answer the following questions in the space provided:

1. What is your understanding at this point, of the Court Appointed Special Advocate's most important functions?
2. Please provide a short summary about your interest in volunteerism and how you hope to benefit from your experience as a volunteer. Also discuss why you chose the CASA volunteer Program as opposed to another sort of volunteer opportunity.
3. Please give us a short account of what role you believe our community should play in protecting children from neglect and abuse and in helping families overcome problems and remain together. Include your feelings regarding the rights and responsibilities of parents and children.

4. What do you believe are your greatest strengths and weaknesses concerning working with children as a CASA?

Please give your honest appraisal of yourself in the following areas:

1= I need to work on this; **2=** I am confident in my ability; **3=** I am quite skilled at this and have personal and work or volunteer experience using it.

1 1/2 2 1/2 3 Your ability to handle verbal confrontation.

1 1/2 2 1/2 3 Your ability to express your thoughts verbally.

1 1/2 2 1/2 3 Your ability to express your thoughts in writing.

1 1/2 2 1/2 3 Listening skills. (Your ability to understand both what's actually stated as well as that which is implied during conversation.)

1 1/2 2 1/2 3 Your ability to work with a supervisor and follow program rules.

By signing below, I acknowledge that all information on this application is true to the best of my knowledge and I understand that erroneous information on this application may result in the removal of my name from consideration or continued service as a volunteer for Yakima County CASA.

Name: _____ Date: _____
Signature of Applicant

Thank you for your interest in becoming a CASA volunteer.

