

Cumberland County CASA Program
1 Courthouse Square, Suite 301
Carlisle, PA 17013



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT: CASA Program Office
717.240.6159
casa@ccpa.net

You Can Help: Be the Voice for an Abused and/or Neglected Child

Cumberland County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Needs Volunteers

Carlisle PA – CASA, the Cumberland County Court Appointed Special Advocate Program, is looking for volunteers to work with abused and/or neglected children whose cases are in the court system. CASA trains and matches volunteers with the growing number of children who are involved in the child welfare system.

Training for new volunteers will be held on Monday evenings from 4-8 p.m. beginning, Monday, June 21 through August 9, 2021. Another training round for new volunteers will be held in the fall of 2021.

Volunteers must be 21 years of age or older, be willing to dedicate at least 18-24 months to a case, complete an interview process, pass background clearances, and undergo more than 40 hours of training.

The CASA Program conducts in-depth training on courtroom procedures, effective advocacy techniques, and covers topics ranging from types of abuse to early childhood development. Each CASA volunteer is appointed to one child or sibling group, and will perform an average 10-20 volunteer hours per month in their advocacy roles. In 2020, 43 CASA volunteers advocated for 69 dependent children.

CASA Volunteer roles and responsibilities:

- **Gather Information:** In order to inform the court of the child's situation, a volunteer must gather in-depth knowledge of the child and his or her family situation.
- **Advocate:** Provide the facts to the court through written reports and speaking on the child's behalf for the child's best interest.
- **Facilitate:** Communicate between the parties for services to support the child's needs.
- **Monitor:** Stay informed of the child's situation until a safe, permanent home has been achieved.

These four key actions help ensure the court has all information needed to make the best informed decisions regarding the best interest of the child.

CASA, a national program, was implemented in 1977 by a Seattle judge. The National CASA Association, headquartered in Seattle, has more than 950 CASA programs across the nation, including Cumberland County.

Interested volunteers should contact CASA at 717.240.6159 or casa@ccpa.net as soon as possible to be registered for the upcoming training session. For additional information, visit www.ccpa.net/casa.

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