



CASA of Southern Connecticut Volunteer Application

Directions: 1) Please type or print legibly. 2) Complete application in its entirety. 3) Must be 21 years of age to apply to be a CASA Volunteer.

Section I

Purpose and Use of Application Information

Thank you for your interest in working as a CASA volunteer with CASA of Southern Connecticut. Our volunteers work closely with court employees and the paid staff of CASA of Southern Connecticut and are an integral part of our program. Volunteers function under the same expectations as paid staff in terms of work attendance, dependability, adherence to established work procedures and compliance with professional standards of conduct. In turn, volunteers are assigned meaningful work. Acting as a CASA volunteer is a very rewarding experience.

The questions in this application are asked for the purpose of preliminary assessment of your qualifications as a CASA volunteer. This volunteer application contains much of the material included in applications to work as paid staff, with some differences. The information requested in Section II will provide a basis for evaluation your qualifications as a volunteer. The information in Section III is essential to determine final approval of your application in regard to any previous law violations or treatment history.

While information contained in your response in Section III may not an automatic barrier to final acceptance, it will be assessed and discussed with you regarding its relevance to your work as a CASA volunteer, and may be reason for rejection if it is found to pose a risk to children. Please note that 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 program's credibility will not be accepted as a CASA volunteer. The information requested is to expedite the application process. If you have any questions about completing Section III before learning if you will be accepted as a CASA volunteer, please contact the volunteer coordinator or executive director.

This application is the first step towards learning more about the CASA program. After the application is reviewed, we will schedule an interview and answer any questions at that time. The screening process continues throughout the 30 hours of training, and concludes with a post-training interview. At that time either party, the volunteer or the CASA staff, may request to have the application withdrawn.

Related Experience

Please tell us if you have had any professional or volunteer experience with any of the following organizations.

Department of Children and Families (DCF) Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

Foster Care Agencies Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

Juvenile Court Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

Other Child Services Agencies Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

Background Information

Please answer the following questions. Should you answer “yes,” please provide a brief explanation.

Do you, or anyone that you know, currently work or volunteer with foster children and/or their families, or with CASA?

If yes, please explain: _____

Have you ever applied to be a court appointed volunteer child advocate in this state or another state?

If yes, please explain: _____

Are you fluent in any language (including ASL) other than English?

If yes, please list the language(s): _____

Have you lived at your current address for less than five years? If yes, please provide your previous address: _____

Please list any strong interests, knowledge areas, hobbies, or special skills which you could offer as a volunteer.

What experience or knowledge of children and families do you have to assist you in determining what may be in a child's best interests (i.e. parenting experience, child care experience, related education or work)?

How did you learn about CASA generally, or CASA of Southern Connecticut specifically?

Why are you interested in volunteering with CASA of Southern Connecticut?

On a separate document, please write a 400-word essay, describing how your skills, professional and personal experience make you suited to work with and advocate for foster children as a CASA volunteer.

Section III

Criminal Record Check

The information requested in this section is essential to conduct a comprehensive background check, which is required for all staff and volunteers. You are not legally required to supply this information. However, if you choose to withhold this information, CASA of Southern Connecticut is required to reject the applicant.

Driver's License # _____ Date of Birth _____

Social Security # _____

Agreement

If you were to volunteer with CASA of Southern Connecticut, will you agree to consent to a background check of your criminal records (including child abuse/neglect registry, state and national criminal background searches, Social Security verification, and Sex Offender Registry)?

Yes No

Volunteer advocates are expected to possess basic computer skills to access and use software related to their cases. Emailing and use of Word are required. In addition, training may require computer and internet access. Are you able to meet these requirements?

Yes No

If you were to serve as a volunteer advocate, would you agree to commit to serving through discharge or the completion of your case?

Yes No

As a CASA volunteer, would you agree to and be comfortable with ongoing supervision by staff?

Yes No

As a CASA volunteer, would you agree to complete 12 hours of in-service training each year?

Yes No

As a CASA volunteer, would you agree to maintain confidentiality in all of your court cases?

Yes No

As a CASA volunteer, are you willing and able to arrange your schedule to attend weekday court hearings or meetings?

Yes No

Acknowledgment

I declare that all of the proceeding information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any false or misleading information given by me can disqualify me from consideration or result in separation at a later time. I understand that Court Appointed Special Advocate is an at-will volunteer position.

I hereby give my permission for CASA of Southern Connecticut to conduct a criminal record check to obtain information for the purpose of assessing my qualifications to serve as a Court Appointed Special Advocate.

Signature _____ Date _____

References

Please list three (3) personal references, other than relatives, that can attest to your character, skills and dependability. One reference should be a current or recent co-worker, if applicable. References will be contacted.

Name _____ Relationship _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Cell Phone _____ Home _____ Work _____

Email: _____

Name _____ Relationship _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Cell Phone _____ Home _____ Work _____

Email: _____

Name _____ Relationship _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Cell Phone _____ Home _____ Work _____

Email: _____

Non-Discrimination Policy

CASA of Southern Connecticut does not exclude, deny benefits to or otherwise discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, ancestry, ethnicity, national origin, disability, age or sexual orientation, or for any other factor protected by federal, state, or local laws or regulations, for participation in or receipt of services and benefits of any of its programs and activities or in employment therein, whether carried out by CASA of Southern Connecticut directly or through any other entity with which CASA of Southern Connecticut arranges to carry out its programs and activities.

This statement is in accordance with the provisions of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and the regulations of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issued pursuant to the Acts, Title 45 code of Federal Regulations Part 80, 84, and 91.