



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.

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.

