



Volunteer Qualifications

Purpose of a CASA Volunteer

- To recommend to the court, based on fact finding and investigation, the best interest of a child in Protective Service Custody
- To work for and to achieve the vision and mission of CASA
- To facilitate timely resolution to cases

CASA recruits volunteers without regard to sex, race, color, religious belief or national origin. In order to qualify you must meet these criteria:

- Fill out the CASA of Parker County Volunteer application
- Have flexibility during the day for training and court appearances
- Be 21 years of age
- Be able to speak and write in English
- Provide 4 positive references
- Have a valid driver's license, a good driving record, proof of current insurance and reliable transportation
- Sign a release to obtain information from personal references
- Submit to a background check

Background Checks

Volunteers are required to cooperate with a complete criminal record investigation through the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services and any agency or entity CASA may utilize to assist in the investigation. No person is considered qualified who has had prior convictions for child abuse or neglect, or related acts that would pose a risk to children or the program's credibility.

Volunteers will be eliminated for consideration based on, but not limited to, the following guiding principles:

- Zero tolerance for all registered sex offenders
- Zero tolerance for all convictions of crimes against children
- Zero tolerance for all convictions of violent acts
- Persons with pending charges of child abuse and neglect, sexual assault and violent act offenses will be considered only after resolution of such charges
- Because driving is required daily from staff members and volunteers, CASA will not consider applicants who have had felony convictions involving a motor vehicle in the last ten years or have a misdemeanor DWI offense within the last 10 years.
- Any other offense that could potentially hurt the credibility of the CASA organization will be considered on a case by case basis.

Pre-Service Training Agreement

- Participation in the Pre-Service Volunteer Training is required and includes at least 30 hours of classroom training.
- Check this website for the next training schedule.
- In addition to the classroom sessions, 3 hours of courtroom observation at the Parker County Courthouse are required, as well as some written and reading assignments outside the classroom.
- Attendance at Pre-Service Training is critical to your success as a CASA volunteer. Some classroom sessions of the training program are mandatory. The training coordinator will discuss options if an absence is unavoidable.
- The Pre-Service Training Class is a part of the screening process, and acceptance to participate in training does not guarantee that the individual will be sworn in as a CASA Volunteer

New Volunteers are required to follow and sign a copy of the following:

- Agreement by Volunteer to a criminal background check
- Volunteer Application
- Consent Form to obtain information from references