

Capital Area CASA Pre-Service Training

After attending a 45-minute orientation session to determine if you are interested in becoming a CASA volunteer, you may submit an application. Applicants are thoroughly screened through a personal interview with program staff, background checks and personal references. After completing the screening process, applicants must complete a 32-hour pre-service training course which includes a two-hour court observation. Training topics are listed below.

- Welcome to CASA
 - Roles and responsibilities of a CASA
 - The CASA Experience
- The Child and Permanence
 - Child Development
 - Attachment
 - What Children Need
- Families and Permanence
 - Children in Foster Care
 - A Child's View of Foster Care
 - Understanding Families
 - Permanency Planning Philosophy
 - Foster Care Placements
 - Evaluating Placements and Best Interest
- Child Protection and Permanence
 - Child Protection
 - DCFS Panel
 - CASA's Role at the FTC
- Cultural Competency
- The Law, the Court and Permanence
 - Child Abuse laws
 - CASA's Role in Court
 - Juvenile Court Process
 - Information Gathering
 - Understanding Parental Rights
 - Testifying and Rules of Evidence
- Advocacy 101
 - Monitoring and Documenting Your case
 - CASA Action Plan
 - Getting the Necessary Support and Supervision
 - Communication and Collaboration Skills
- Advocacy 102
 - A View from the Bench/ Swearing In
 - Court Reports
 - Expectations and Evaluations
 - Wrap up.