



## CASA of San Benito County

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Our Mission: To train and support community volunteers who advocate for abused and neglected children placed in foster care; upholding the children's rights while pursuing a safe and permanent home.

# The Role of the CASA Volunteer



## Who are CASA Volunteers?

CASA volunteers are Court Appointed Special Advocates; community members who undergo thorough screening, complete 33 hours of training, and are provided with on-going supervision by a professional CASA staff member. CASA volunteers are sworn officers of the court, and mandated reporters.





## What is the role of a CASA volunteer?

- Establish a relationship with a child in foster care, visit the child a minimum of two times a month, and perform advocacy-related tasks.
- Provide the court with information about the child's needs, wishes, strengths and best interest.
- Facilitate communication and promote collaboration between assigned professionals including social workers, therapists, schools, caregivers, and other team members.
- Identify resources within the community to meet the child's needs.

## How do CASA volunteers help?

- Serve as a positive role model who will listen to and provide consistent support while the child is in the foster care system.
- Be a voice for the child in the court room, classroom and community.
- Ensure the child's unique needs are identified and met.
- Support caregivers in identifying enrichment, extra-curricular, or additional community activities and resources.



## What a CASA volunteer does not do:

- Provide transportation to or from appointments.
- Provide babysitting or respite care.
- Provide legal advice.
- Provide therapeutic services.



## Please notify the CASA volunteer if:

- The child has food allergies, sensitivities, or dietary restrictions.
- Any significant changes in the child's health or behavior.