



CASA Volunteer Application

For which position are you applying? Advocate Mentor Intern Other

Last name _____ First name _____ Middle _____

Home address _____ Apt _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

County _____ Social Security number _____

Home phone number _____ Cell phone number _____

E-mail address _____ Date of birth _____

Driver's license # _____ Date Expired _____

Car Insurance Company _____ Effective Date _____ Date Expired _____

Emergency contact _____ Emergency phone _____

CASA is mandated by the Judicial Council of California to collect demographic information from our volunteers and to provide composite statistical reports. Demographic information will **not** be used to determine suitability to be a CASA volunteer and will be kept confidential.

Gender Female Male

Marital Status Single Married Widowed Divorced Separated

Ethnicity African-American Asian/Pacific Islander White/Non-Latino
 Hispanic/Latino Native American Multi-Racial Other

Education High school GED AA/AS BA/BS
 MA/MS PhD/EdD Other

Primary language English French Spanish Signing Other

Secondary languages English French Spanish Signing Other

Place of employment or school _____ **Phone Number** _____

Employment status Full time Part time Student Unemployed Retired

Position _____

Referred by Flier Friend Internet Local newspaper Local radio

Media Web Page Volunteer referral agency Other _____

Previous and/or current volunteer activities _____



List four references unrelated to you who have known you for at least one year. Provide complete contact information. Include at least one local reference.

1. First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ Email address _____

Indicate how you would like us to contact this reference: Email _____ US Mail _____

2. First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ Email address _____

Indicate how you would like us to contact this reference: Email _____ US Mail _____

3. First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ Email address _____

Indicate how you would like us to contact this reference: Email _____ US Mail _____

4. First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ Email address _____

Indicate how you would like us to contact this reference: Email _____ US Mail _____

Skills and Interests _____

What strengths do you feel that you can bring to the program? _____

Have you ever been convicted of a crime? _____ Yes _____ No If yes, explain. _____

Have you had a personal experience involving Child Protective Services? _____ Juvenile Court System? _____ Foster Care? _____ or another situation involving abused children? If so, please tell us about it.

Have you lived in another state within the last 5 years? _____ In which state? _____

For advocate and mentor applicants only, please answer the questions below:

Are you aware of the 36 hour training requirement? _____ Yes _____ No

Are you aware of the Continuing Education requirement (12 hrs per year)? _____ Yes _____ No



Are you aware of the costs associated with volunteering? (Please refer to cover letter or website) ____ Yes ____ No

Are you able to commit 12-15 hours as an advocate or least 4 hours as a mentor each month to this program? ____ Yes ____ No

Are you able to spend time with a child weekly, or make weekly contact with a young adult? ____ Yes ____ No

**On a separate sheet of paper, please address the following issues:
1) Why you wish to work with this program 2) Experience with children or young adults 3) Your feelings about child abuse and what you have to offer as a non-violent role model.**

I understand that by submitting this application, I am authorizing inquiries to be made concerning my suitability as a volunteer. This will include a background check and fingerprinting for any past criminal record. Including references checks by four people that you identify. Reference checks are kept confidential and will not be made available to the volunteer. The information requested in the application except for demographic information will be used only for the purpose of determining my suitability to be a volunteer. All information will be held in confidence and all information obtained by the CASA program will be deemed to be the sole property of CASA of San Luis Obispo County, and shall not be made available to me or anyone outside of the agency.

I understand that all volunteers are selected based upon their individual ability to meet the responsibilities of the CASA program. An adult otherwise qualified to act as a CASA will not be discriminated against based on marital status, socioeconomic factors, race, national origin, ethnic group identification, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, color, or disability or because of any other characteristic listed or defined in Government Code section 11135 or Welfare and Institutions Code section 103.

If I am applying as an Advocate or Mentor, I understand that I must complete the training program and spend half a day observing court proceedings before being certified as a Court Appointed Special Advocate or Mentor. I further understand that I must participate in ongoing training and supervision after certification. If selected for the program and assigned to a child or young adult, I understand that my duties may include court appearances, visits to the homes of family members and possibly visits to institutions or treatment programs.

I understand that any information I may receive or hear pertaining to a child or young adult and his or her circumstances is strictly confidential and may not be disclosed to anyone else.

I understand that any applicant found to have been convicted of or to have current charges pending for a felony or misdemeanor involving a sex offense, child abuse, or child neglect will not be accepted as a volunteer. If CASA deems me not a fit for the program, CASA does not need to reveal the reason for my dismissal from training.

Refusal to sign this application or submit to a background check will be cause for immediate rejection from the CASA program.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT COMPLIANCE INFORMATION: To comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act and other applicable laws insuring equal opportunities to qualified individuals with a disability, reasonable accommodations are made for the known physical or mental limitations of an otherwise qualified individual with a disability unless an undue hardship, direct threat to health and safety or other job related consideration exists.

CASA of San Luis Obispo County, in accordance with applicable Federal and State law, does not discriminate on the basis of ancestry, race, color, religion, gender, gender expression, gender identity, sex (includes pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding, and/or related medical conditions), age, national origin, disability (physical and mental), military or veteran status, marital status, sexual orientation, pregnancy, HIV/AIDS status, request for FMLA, or any other status protected by law. CASA of San Luis Obispo County also prohibits sexual harassment.

Reasons for Being Declined as a CASA Volunteer

- 1) ARREST AND/OR CONVICTIONS FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CRIMES:
 - a) Crimes against a child
 - b) Felonies
 - c) Any sex crimes
 - d) Drug/substance (DUI/DWI) violations
Arrests without convictions are subject to thorough review by Agency staff and approval by the Judge.
CASA of San Luis Obispo County reserves the right to refuse applicants that have a confirmed DUI conviction
CASA of Sam Luis Obispo County does not accept applicants that have experienced a felony DUI conviction

- 2) UNDERGOING PROSECUTION AT TIME OF APPLICATION:
With the exception of vehicle code misdemeanors, **denial is automatic.**

- 3) CONVICTED OF A CRIME WITHIN FIVE YEARS BEFORE APPLYING TO BE A CASA:
With the exception of vehicle code infractions, **denial is automatic.**

- 4) MOTOR VEHICLE CODE VIOLATIONS (using DMV point system):
 - a) Drivers with any 2-point violations on their current record and/or:
 - b) Drivers with a 3-point total of violations on their current records.

- 5) ACTS PUNISHABLE AS A CRIME, ARRESTS AND/OR CONVICTIONS OTHER THAN SPECIFIED ABOVE:
The CASA Program Staff may or may not exclude applicants after consideration of factors including but limited to the following as evidence of good character and rehabilitation:
 - a) The nature of the crime.
 - b) Period of time since the crime was committed and number of offenses.
 - c) Circumstances surrounding the commission of the crime that would demonstrate the unlikelihood of repetition.
 - d) Activities since conviction, including employment or participation in therapy or education, that would indicate changed behavior.
 - e) Granting by the Governor of the full and unconditional pardon.
 - f) Character references.
 - g) A certificate of rehabilitation from a Superior Court.
 - h) A "Finding of Factual Innocence" as described in Penal Code Section 851.8

- 6) CPS INVOLVEMENT IN FAMILY:
 - a) Parent of a child who is or has been an adjudicated dependent or has been placed under informal supervision of any county's children's social services agency.
 - b) Spouse or significant other of a parent of a child who is or has been adjudicated a dependent or has been placed under informal supervision of any county children's social service agency; and/or
 - c) Adult whose acts have been responsible for a child being adjudicated a dependent or placed under informal supervision of any county children's social services. **Automatic denial.**
 - d) A relative who is seeking or has been given custody and care of minor(s) with an active case in the Juvenile Court System.

- 7) CHILD, PARENT, SPOUSE, HOUSEHOLD MEMBER OR SIGNIFICANT OTHER OF PAREN OF CHILD WHO HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF A CPS REPORT:

The CASA Program Staff may or may not exclude applicants after consideration of factors including but not limited to the following as evidence of good character and rehabilitation:
 - a) The nature of the report(s).
 - b) The period of time since reports(s) filed.
 - c) Number of reports.
 - d) Circumstances surrounding the reports.

- 8) PERSONS PROVIDING SERVICES TO CHILDREN AND/OR THEIR PARENTS WITHIN THE CHILD WELFARE AND/OR JUVENILE COURT SYSTEM: **Denial subject to staff review of conflict of interest.**