



Volunteer Application Packet

Please return the completed application packet, along with a copy of your automobile proof of insurance to:

CASA of Kent County
Attn: Administrative Coordinator
180 Ottawa NW, Suite 5200, Grand Rapids, MI 49503
or submit via email to: clare.parks@kentcountymi.gov

PURPOSE AND USE OF THIS APPLICATION INFORMATION

Thank you for your interest in working as a volunteer with CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Kent County. In every role, volunteers function under the same expectations as paid staff in terms of work attendance, dependability, adherence to established work procedures and compliance with professional standards of conduct. In turn, volunteers are assigned very meaningful and important work. You will find the volunteer experience very rewarding.

The questions in this application are asked for preliminarily assessing your qualifications to be a CASA volunteer. The volunteer application contains much of the material included in paid staff applications, but with some differences. A Court Appointed Special Advocate is a volunteer position. The information requested in the background section will provide a basis for evaluating your qualifications as a volunteer, while the information included in the Criminal Record/Treatment History Section is essential to determine final approval of your application.

While the information is requested, the Criminal Record Section is not an automatic barrier to final acceptance; it will be assessed and discussed with you regarding its relevance to your work as a CASA volunteer. The information is requested to expedite the application process. If you have any questions about completing the Criminal Record Section before learning if you will be accepted as a CASA volunteer, please call (616) 632-5311 and ask to speak to the CASA Program Manager.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE

As an applicant, your name, job history, education, training, and work availability are public information. In addition, as a volunteer, your name, job title, job description, dates of volunteering, and monthly reports may be made public. All other data about you remains private and will not be shared without your written permission. The program will reject any applicant found to have been convicted of, or having charges pending for a felony, or misdemeanor involving sex offense, child abuse or neglect, or related acts that would pose risks to children or the CASA program's credibility.

VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

PLEASE TYPE OR WRITE LEGIBLY USING BLACK INK.
COMPLETE ALL PAGES OF THE APPLICATION. THANK YOU!

Background Information

1. Name _____
(Last) (First) (Middle)
2. Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
3. Date of Birth _____ Gender _____ (leave blank if you prefer not to answer)
4. Email address _____
5. List maiden name and/or other names you have ever been known by:

6. Race _____ Key: White, Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. (Leave blank if you prefer not to answer)
Ethnicity _____ Key: Hispanic or Latino or Not Hispanic or Latino. (Leave blank if you prefer not to answer)
7. Driver's License # _____ Social Security # _____
8. Have you lived in a state other than Michigan in the past seven (7) years? Yes No
If yes, where? _____
9. Home phone _____ Cell phone _____
Work phone _____
10. Contact in case of Emergency _____
Relationship _____ Phone _____

11. Education (Please list school/college name and degree)

High School _____ Graduated? Yes No
 College _____ Graduated? Yes No
 Other _____ Graduated? Yes No

12. Primary Language _____ Secondary Language _____

13. Which of the following best describes your current employment status?

Full-Time Part-Time Student Retired Not Employed

14. Employment Information – Please begin list with current or last employer.

Employer	Position	Dates Employed
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

15. Volunteer Experience

Organization/Business	Position	Dates Volunteered
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

16. How did you hear about CASA?

- CASA of Kent County Website
- National CASA Website
- Newspaper/Magazine (specify) _____
- Friend/Acquaintance (specify) _____
- VolunteerMatch
- Internet (specify) _____
- Other _____

17. Why do you want to volunteer?

18. Please list any areas of interest or knowledge and hobbies or special skills that you could offer as a volunteer.

19. What experience or knowledge of children and families do you have to assist you in determining what may be in a child's best interest? (i.e., parenting, childcare, education or work experience)
20. Have you had any experiences with social service agencies such as a staff person, a foster parent, volunteer, or client? If yes, please describe:
21. Have you had any experience dealing with the juvenile or family court system or child protective services? If yes, please describe.
22. In your opinion, how could the child welfare system do a better job of protecting children?
23. How many total hours per week are you available to dedicate to this role? _____
24. Some volunteer duties require the use of a car. Do you own a car with liability insurance?
Yes No

25. Were you abused or neglected as a child? Yes No
If yes, please explain.
26. Have you ever been accused of abusing or neglecting a child? Yes No
If yes, please explain.
27. Have you ever been involved in a relationship that included domestic violence? Yes No
If yes, please explain.
28. Have you ever been in any type of court proceeding at the District, Probate, Circuit or Supreme Court level? Yes No
If yes, please explain.
29. Have you ever struggled with any substance abuse issues? Yes No
If yes, please explain.
30. Please list any additional information you feel would be helpful in assessing your application.

Criminal Record

The information requested in this section is essential to conduct the record check and is required to be accepted into the program. If you choose to withhold this information, you will not be accepted into the program. As a volunteer, you are obligated to report changes in your ability to drive and/or the loss of vehicle insurance coverage.

31. Have you at any time had any contact with law enforcement? Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

Date(s) _____

Outcome: _____

References

Please list three personal references that can attest to your character skills and dependability. One reference should be a supervisor if employed. Other examples might be a minister, teacher, therapist, co-worker, etc. Please do not use family members. References will be contacted. Please give complete address information as we send a hard-copy reference form to each person listed.

1. Name _____ Relationship _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone - Work _____ Home _____ Cell _____
Email address _____

2. Name _____ Relationship _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone - Work _____ Home _____ Cell _____
Email address _____

3. Name _____ Relationship _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone - Work _____ Home _____ Cell _____
Email address _____

Background Check Authorization

To ensure the protection of children in the care of the State of Michigan being advocated for by the CASA of Kent County organization, CASA of Kent County policy requires, prior to any persons providing a volunteer service for any function conducted by the volunteer and/or program that all potential volunteers must complete a criminal and civil background check.

CASA of Kent County reserves the right to “approve” or “deny” any volunteer service upon review of the background check returned. The determination will be based upon the individual’s fitness to have responsibility for the safety and wellbeing of children. Providing false information, or information contradicting to the background check information, is grounds for immediate volunteer denial.

I hereby authorize a representative of CASA of Kent County, Inc. to investigate my background in conjunction with their official duties.

I further authorize any law enforcement agency to conduct a criminal record check and to release the results of said criminal records check to CASA of Kent County. The background check will also include the Child Abuse Central Registry, Sex Offender Registry, and a motor vehicles division record check.

This release is executed by me with the full knowledge and understanding that the information to be obtained about me is for the official use of CASA of Kent County.

I have read the above waiver and release statement and fully understand what rights I am waiving by signing this document.

Signature _____ Social Security Number _____
(required to complete background checks)
Date _____

Acknowledgement

I declare that all the preceding information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any false or misleading information given by me will disqualify me from consideration or result in separation at a later time. I understand that a Court Appointed Special Advocate is an at-will volunteer position.

Signature Date

Please bring a copy of your Driver’s License and Automobile Proof of Insurance to your pre-Interview.

Please return completed application package to:

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Grand Rapids, MI 49503