



Thank you for your interest in becoming a CASA Volunteer.

Enclosed is our volunteer application packet. Please complete and return it by U.S. mail, email, or drop it by one of our offices conveniently located at 1347 N. Jefferson Street in Dublin, 5104 9th Avenue in Eastman, 406 Jackson Street in Vidalia, or 1124 S. Harris Street in Sandersville (the Sandersville office is inside the Dept of Family and Children Services building). Once your application has been received in our offices you will be contacted as to the date and time of our next training.

Becoming a CASA volunteer allows you to become the voice of an abused or neglected child, who in many cases would not otherwise have one, in court. We are pleased that you have expressed an interest in helping our area's children.

Please feel free to call any advocacy program staff member at (478) 275-8100 Dublin, (478) 374-3516 Eastman, (912) 537-2009 Vidalia, or (478)553-2375 Sandersville if you have any questions.

We look forward to hearing from you soon and do hope that you choose to become a CASA advocate for an abused child.

Thank you,

TLC CASA Program

Becoming a CASA Volunteer

- A Court Appointed Special Advocate volunteers his or her time to promote and protect the best interest of abused or neglected children in court proceedings, the social service system and the community.
- All volunteers must be 21 years of age, undergo a series of background checks including but not limited to a local and federal criminal records check, and must provide five references. All of us have a past, and we understand that things happen and people change, therefore a criminal record does not necessarily exclude a person from becoming a volunteer. We look at the type of charge and the date it was committed.
- The training involves 30 hours of classroom training and 10 hours of courtroom observation. Depending on the frequency of the classes the training could last as long as ten weeks. After the training and the receipt of all references and background checks the Juvenile Court Judge then swears in the volunteer.
- Volunteers generally manage no more than two (2) cases at a time. The amount of time involved varies from case to case, but the average is about 5-8 hours per month, per case. The time involved will consist of visits to the child, the family, case workers and any professionals involved with the child; writing reports and submitting them to the CASA office; appearing in court to represent the child's best interest.
- Juvenile court is held on Wednesdays in Laurens County and once a month on rotating Thursdays in Johnson, Treutlen, and Twiggs Counties. Juvenile court for Bleckley, Dodge, Montgomery, Pulaski, Telfair, and Wheeler Counties is held in Eastman on Thursdays. Juvenile Court is held on varying days in Emanuel, Candler, Washington, Jefferson, and Toombs County. Volunteers are asked to be present on days their cases are before the court if at all possible. Arrangements can be made for volunteers who cannot be in court due to work schedules.
- Volunteers are required to participate in at least 12 hours of continuing education per year. Opportunities for training are frequently sponsored by CASA or a partner organization.

This is just a synopsis of what a CASA volunteer does. Hopefully this will create questions in your mind that will be answered in your personal interview or during the training. However, feel free to call us at any time to get more information.

Education / Other training

School	Degree	Year completed

Use additional paper, if needed, to answer the following:

1. Have you ever worked for a Juvenile Court? _____ If yes, when and where?

2. Have you ever worked for the Georgia Department of Family and Children Services, or another state's equivalent? _____ If yes, when and where?

3. Are you now or have you ever been a foster parent? _____ If yes, when and where?

4. List any previous volunteer experience and any affiliations with community organizations within the last three years.

5. List any experience, education, or training related to dealing with children and/or their families. _____

6. Please check if you have:
____ A valid Georgia driver's license
____ Access to the use of a car
____ Valid Automobile Insurance
7. Have you ever been convicted of any violation of law other than minor traffic violations?
_____. If yes, please explain. _____

8. Have you ever or are you currently being treated for a mental health issue? _____. If yes, please explain: _____

9. Have you ever or are you currently being treated for drug or alcohol abuse? ____ If yes, please explain: _____

10. Have you or any family member ever been investigated by The Georgia Department of Family and Children Services, or any state equivalent, for physical or sexual abuse, or neglect? _____. If yes, when, why, and what was the outcome: _____

11. Why do you want to be a CASA volunteer?

12. How did you hear about the TLC CASA Program?

13. Are you able to commit yourself as a volunteer for at least one year? _____

14. If you are employed are your hours flexible enough that you would be able request time off for court if given reasonable notice? _____

15. If you are not employed is your time flexible enough that you would arrange to be in court if given reasonable notice? _____

Preferred training: ____ Morning ____ Afternoon ____ Evening

Preferred Days: ____ Mon ____ Tue ____ Wed ____ Thu ____ Fri ____ Sat

Frequency: ____ Once ____ Twice ____ Three ____ Four times per week.

I understand that inquiries will be made as to my suitability as a CASA volunteer and that this application does not assure my acceptance into the TLC CASA Program. I also understand that falsifying information on this application or any misrepresentation of facts on this application will result in disqualification as a volunteer or immediate termination from volunteer status if discovered after being sworn in as a CASA volunteer. If accepted by the program, I will be offered the opportunity to attend and participate in the training sessions. Upon completion, I will offer my services as a Court Appointed Special Advocate.

Signature

Date

Please provide the following references:

2 Personal – 2 Professional – 1 Relative

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home telephone # _____ Work telephone # _____

Relationship to me _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home telephone # _____ Work telephone # _____

Relationship to me _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home telephone # _____ Work telephone # _____

Relationship to me _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home telephone # _____ Work telephone # _____

Relationship to me _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home telephone # _____ Work telephone # _____

Relationship to me _____

CRIMINAL RECORDS CHECK CONSENT FORM

I hereby authorize **TLC CASA** (The Laurens County CASA Program, Inc.) to receive any criminal history record information pertaining to me, which may be in the files of any state or local criminal justice agency in the United States of America.

Last name	First name	Middle name	Maiden
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Street Address

City, State, Zip Code

Date of Birth

Social Security Number

Sex

Race

Signature

Date

I understand the TLC CASA Program will reject me as a volunteer applicant if I have been convicted of or have current charges pending for a felony or a misdemeanor involving any sex offense, child abuse, child neglect, murder, or any other gross act of misconduct that would pose a risk to children or to the TLC CASA Program's credibility.

DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLE RECORDS CHECK
CONSENT FORM

I hereby authorize **TLC CASA** (The Laurens County CASA Program, Inc.) to conduct a Georgia Department of Motor Vehicle record check, and to receive any information pertaining to me.

Last name First name Middle name Maiden

Street Address

City, State, Zip Code

Date of Birth

Drivers License Number

Sex

Race

Signature

Date

**DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND CHILDREN SERVICES CHILD
ABUSE REGISTRY RECORDS CHECK CONSENT FORM**

I hereby authorize the **TLC CASA Program** to receive recorded information pertaining to me, which may be in the files of The Georgia Department of Family and Children Services Child Abuse Registry records.

Last name First name Middle name Maiden

Street Address

City, State, Zip Code

Date of Birth Social Security Number Sex Race

Signature

Date

I understand that the existence of any substantiated child abuse and/or neglect allegations or adult abuse allegations in which I am named as the alleged offender or the parent/caretaker may disqualify me from becoming a CASA volunteer.