

You can help

The Court hears about 600 cases of dependency, neglect and abuse each year. Therefore, the Court is always looking for volunteers who are Stark County residents and twenty-one (21) years of age or older. You can contact the Court by calling 451-7282.

Requirements

The volunteers are required to complete an application, a screening interview, agree to volunteer for a minimum of one year, attend a series of training workshops, attend further inservice workshops, and to utilize the manual written for the Program. Applicants will be screened and selected on the basis of availability, dedication, reliability, and willingness to learn.

Program Beginnings

The CASA/Guardian ad litem Program began as a result of a need to better represent the rights and interests of abused, neglected and dependent children in Stark County. The Junior League of Canton, Ohio, Inc. in cooperation with Stark County Family Court, established the Volunteer Guardian Ad litem Program in 1982.

Call or email to become a CASA Volunteer
330-451-7282/dlhallett@starkcountyohio.gov
www.facebook.com/StarkCountyCASAGAL

In Stark County
In Carroll County
You can make a difference

Judges

Hon. Jim D. James
Hon. Rosemarie A. Hall
Hon. Michelle Cordova

Carroll County

Hon. Sean Smith

ADMINISTRATORS

Court Administrator
Diane Wilson
Assistant Court Administrator
Jacob Morgan
CASA/GAL
CASA/GAL Program Director
Tiffany Brown
CASA/GAL Volunteer Coordinator
Michelle Spees
CASA/GAL Development Coordinator
Denise Hallett

Stark County Family Court



**Lift up a child's voice.
A child's life.™**



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ROLE

A CASA Volunteer is an advocate who will make an independent evaluation after investigation as to what is truly in the child's best interests, both in terms of the present and also long term planning. The CASA Volunteer will present this recommendation to the Court at a hearing.



TEAM CASA

Each CASA Volunteer is part of a team that fulfills the requirements of Ohio law. Ohio law requires that a CASA/GAL be appointed for a child when an agency, such as Stark County Job and Family Services, files a complaint alleging abuse or neglect, or when a motion for permanent custody is requested.

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RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Investigate the child's life by interacting with the:
 - child
 - caseworker
 - parents
 - foster parents
 - possible adoptive parents
 - school officials
 - other important parties
2. Gather all the facts, evaluate them, and prepare an objective and thoughtful report of your recommendations.
3. Present this report in oral and written format to the Court at a

hearing and advocate for the child's rights and best interests.

4. To become a CASA Volunteer, it takes:

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WHAT IT TAKES

5. completing initial classroom or independent training
6. yearly follow-up training thereafter
7. a say in matching with a child needing your service
8. independence to set your own visits, according to program standards
9. commitment of one year
10. 5 hours average each month (for meeting your "CASA Kid" and report writing)

"A child needs an extra ear to hear them, a voice to speak for them and an extra caring heart to help keep them safe."

Robin Minor
Stark County CASA Volunteer

"I serve as a CASA Volunteer because I have a passion to make a difference in a child's life."

Pat Hartson
Stark County CASA Volunteer

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