



ATHENS-OCONEE CASA PROGRAM

Responsibilities:

- Visit the child
- Explain the role of a CASA volunteer
- Keep the child informed of all aspects of the court proceedings
- Gather independent information about the child to make recommendations to the judge in the child's best interest.
- Seek cooperative solutions with other participants in the child's case
- Interview the parents, guardians or caretakers, social worker & other service providers
- Review records related to the family
- Prepare written report for court hearings
- Attend & participate in court hearings and other related meetings
- Identify potential resources within the family & community to meet the child's needs
- Keep all records & information confidential
- Monitor provisions of service plans & court orders
- Ensure the child's wishes are known to the judge
- Consult with local CASA program staff for support & guidance
- Maintain focus on the child until permanency is achieved

A **Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)** is a trained community volunteer appointed by a judge to advocate for the best interests of an abused or neglected child in juvenile court proceedings. The CASA volunteer gathers information about the child's situation, attends court proceedings, and makes recommendations to the court so that the judge has the information to make decisions about the child's future. The CASA volunteer advocates for the child to be placed in a safe, permanent home as quickly as possible.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Sincere care for the well-being of children
- At least 21 years of age
- Pass criminal background checks
- Good verbal & written communication skills
- Ability to be objective & non-judgmental
- Available to attend all court hearings
- Commitment to CASA program for at least 18 months or until case is resolved

HOW TO BECOME A CASA

- Complete an application, including 4 personal/professional references
- Undergo criminal background checks
- Be interviewed by a CASA staff person
- Complete 40 hours of training
- Be sworn-in by a judge



A program of



693 North Pope Street
Athens, GA 30601
706-613-1922

info@athensoconeeCasa.org
www.athensoconeeCasa.org

VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME TO CHANGE A CHILD'S LIFE