

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Child Network Offering CASA Training**

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Kankakee County, a program of Child Network, is seeking Volunteers for its upcoming training class beginning in March. CASA Volunteers are assigned to an abused and/or neglected child in the Kankakee County Court System and develop relationships with the children they serve. CASA Volunteers also work closely with social service caseworkers, parents, counselors and the court. Through these relationships, CASA Volunteers then make independent recommendations to the judge as to the best interests of the children.

No special background or education is required to become a CASA Volunteer. We encourage people from all cultures and professions, and of all ethnic and educational backgrounds. Once accepted into the program, Volunteers will receive all necessary training in courtroom procedures, social services, the juvenile justice system and the special needs of abused and neglected children.

Requirements include:

- Be at least 21 years old
- Be willing to complete necessary background checks, provide references and participate in an interview
- Complete a minimum of 30 hours of pre-service training (15 hours online and 15 hours in-person)
- Be available for court appearances, with advance notice
- Be willing to commit to the CASA program until your first case is closed

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Once training is completed, Volunteers can expect to spend an average of 10 hours per month on a case, optimally carrying only one case at a time. Cases are considered complete when the child has found a safe and permanent home.

If you are interested in making a difference in a child's life by becoming a CASA or would like more information, please call Andrea Deno at 815-936-7372 or e-mail her at [adeno@childnetwork.org](mailto:adeno@childnetwork.org).

Child Network is a non-profit agency working in Kankakee County to improve the response to child sexual and physical abuse and to advocate for the best interest of abused and neglected children in the juvenile court system. CASA Kankakee County is a member of the Illinois Association of CASA and the National CASA Association.