



**CASA** (Court Appointed Special Advocate) is a national program that recruits, screens, trains, and supports volunteers who act as independent fact-finders for the court in cases involving child abuse and neglect.

CASA of Cuyahoga County, a program of Child and Family Advocates of Cuyahoga County, joins almost 1,000 other local programs throughout the nation. CASAs collect information that helps the judge make the best decision for a safe, caring, and permanent home for children involved in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. CASAs are everyday citizens who are trained and appointed by the court to advocate for the safety and well-being of children who are victims of abuse or neglect. CASAs are assigned at the earliest stages of a case, and continue to be an advocate for the child through their time in the court system. CASAs work collaboratively with all parties on the case, for the best interests of children. CASAs are only assigned to 1-2 cases at a time and spend approximately 12 hours a month on the case.

The CASA is responsible for investigation, facilitation, advocacy, and monitoring of the assigned child's case of abuse, neglect, and/or dependency to represent the child's best interests.

#### Volunteer Requirements:

- At least 21 years of age
- Access to transportation
- Pass screening
- Complete 30 hours of pre-service training
- Complete 12 continuing education hours annually
- Respect and relate to people of various backgrounds
- Gather and record information accurately
- Communicate effectively
- Maintain objectivity/perspective
- Keep information confidential
- Work within established program policies and procedures
- Accept supervision from program staff.

Those interested in becoming a CASA, visit [www.cfadvocates.org](http://www.cfadvocates.org) to apply, or call [216.443.3377](tel:216.443.3377) for more information.