

## SHOALS CASA “VOLUNTEER ADVOCATE” DESCRIPTION



**Volunteer Advocate Purpose:** CASA volunteers are appointed by judges to advocate for children’s best interests as they navigate the judicial court system. Volunteers stay with each case until it is closed and the child is in a safe, permanent home. They work with legal and child welfare professionals, educators, and service providers to ensure that judges have all of the information they need to make the most well-informed decisions for each child. CASA volunteers are assigned to 1-2 cases at a time.

**Specific Responsibilities:** The Volunteer advocate shall be able to complete the following job duties:

- Document casework when assigned to a case;
- Attend court for children associated with assigned case;
- Serve as the “eyes and ears of the court”;
- Review sensitive documents and contact service providers as needed;
- Report pertinent information that is learned and observed to the court;
- Collaborate with others to ensure the necessary services are provided in the child’s best interest;
- Make recommendations regarding the child’s placement and monitor the situation until case is released by the court;
- Engage with the child during regular visits;
- Learn about the child and his or her family and life;
- Participate in continued education as made available;
- Support and mentor the assigned child

**Requirements:** All CASA volunteers must complete the following before being assigned to a child’s case:

- Complete the pre-training screening;
- Pass a child abuse and criminal background check;
- Complete the volunteer application;
- Provide three (3) reputable references and pass reference check;
- Complete an in-person interview with the Executive Director or Volunteer Coordinator;
- Complete the six (6) week pre-service training and swearing in;
- Show a commitment to the goals and mission of CASA

Volunteers are supported by the Executive Director and Volunteer Coordinator throughout the duration of their assigned case or cases. For additional questions about the volunteer opportunity, contact [hbegley@shoalscasa.org](mailto:hbegley@shoalscasa.org).