

# Who Benefits

## The Child

Children who suffer abuse and neglect are 53% more likely to become juvenile delinquents and 38% more likely to become violent criminals as adults. A major factor in avoiding these outcomes is the presence of a consistent, concerned adult in each child's life.

*We ask all volunteers for a two-year commitment in order to provide consistency for the child(ren).*

## The Judge

"The Juvenile court is responsible for making life altering decisions for abused and neglected children. The Court relies heavily upon CASA volunteers with their relationship and input as to these minors when making its decision regarding the best interests of these kids."

*Judge Susan Clancy Boles  
Kane County Juvenile Court Judge*



"The CASA model works because its volunteers make it work. The children benefit from the time, skill, objectivity and concern of the CASA volunteer for each child's welfare. Appreciated by judicial, legal and social service communities, CASA volunteers work to change lives one child at a time."

*J. Robert Flores, Administrator  
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention  
U.S. Department of Justice*

# Juvenile Court Hearings

- ♦ **Shelter Care Hearing/First Appearance**  
The court decides if removal is necessary. If not, child goes home and case is closed. Otherwise a CASA/GAL is appointed.
- ♦ **Pre-Trial Hearing (30 days from shelter care hearing)**  
Status of notice to parents, receipts of records, etc.
- ♦ **Adjudication Trial (90 days from service on parents, unless waived)**  
The court decides if abuse or neglect occurred.
- ♦ **Dispositional Hearing (30 days from adjudication)**  
Child declared a ward of the court.
- ♦ **Review/Status Hearings**
- ♦ **Permanency Review Hearing (12 months after protective/temporary custody)**  
The court determines the child's permanency goal.
- ♦ **Subsequent Permanency Planning Reviews at 6 month intervals**
- ♦ **Case Dismissed by Achieving Return Home, Guardianship, Independence or by Termination of Parental Rights Hearing and Adoption**

## CASA Kane County

Kane County Courthouse  
100 S. Third Street, Suite 460  
Geneva, IL 60134  
(630) 232-4484 Phone  
(630) 232-4562 Fax

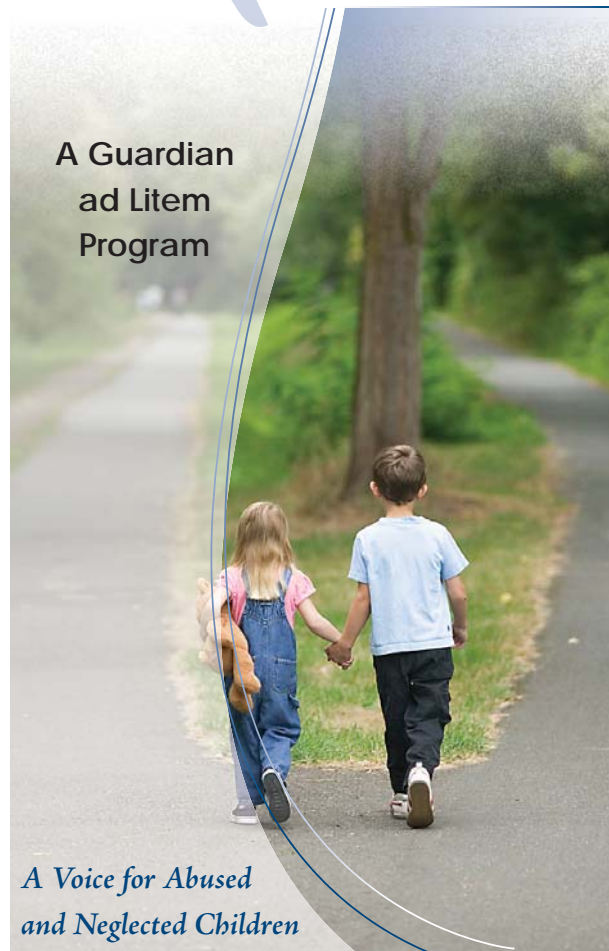
To learn more about our program, please visit our website at: [www.casakanecounty.org](http://www.casakanecounty.org)



Court  
Appointed  
Special  
Advocates  
For Children



A Guardian  
ad Litem  
Program



A Voice for Abused  
and Neglected Children

# CASA

*Court Appointed Special Advocate*

## Who We Are

CASA Kane County recruits, trains, and manages community volunteers to serve as Court Appointed Special Advocates for children who are in court due to abuse and neglect. CASA volunteers serve on one case at a time and are appointed by the Juvenile Court Judge to be the Guardian ad Litem (GAL). The goal of every case is to find a safe, permanent home for the child.

## Our Mission

CASA Kane County is a nonprofit, volunteer organization that advocates for the best interests of abused and neglected children within the Juvenile Court system.

## Our Vision

We believe all children have a right to a safe, nurturing, permanent home and deserve the involvement of their community to make this possible.



*“To give a child a CASA is to give them a voice. To give them a voice is to give them hope, and to give them hope is to give them the world. I believe that with all my heart.”*

- Pamela Butler, a former CASA foster child

## What We Do

### ROLE OF THE CASA/GAL

*The CASA/Guardian ad Litem works independently yet cooperatively with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and their contracted agencies.*

### CASA/GUARDIAN AD LITEM IS ENTITLED TO:

- ♦ Visit with the child
- ♦ Observe parent/child visitations
- ♦ Investigate the child's situation and needs
- ♦ Interview relevant people such as parents, relatives, foster parents, social workers, school and medical personnel
- ♦ Review records (medical, school, DCFS), social history, assessments, investigative reports, client service plans and other reports submitted to the court
- ♦ Submit reports to the court with recommendations
- ♦ Attend and participate in all court hearings and meetings regarding the child

### LEGAL RIGHTS OF THE CASA/GAL

The CASA/GAL is a party to the case. The Judge will appoint an attorney to provide legal representation for the CASA/Guardian ad Litem. Through the attorney, the CASA/GAL is entitled to file motions; call and cross examine witnesses; present evidence; argue pleadings and motions; and receive notices and other documents.

### PROBATE CASES

In Kane County, CASA is appointed as Guardian ad Litem in private guardianship cases. CASA interviews the parties involved and visits with the prospective guardians at their home. A report is submitted to the court and CASA is discharged once a guardian is appointed.



### TRAINING

CASA/Guardians ad Litem are trained volunteers who represent the best interest of children in Juvenile Abuse and Neglect Court. These volunteers must first attend a general information meeting and go through a screening process which includes:

- ♦ Interviews with the case managers
- ♦ Fingerprinting
- ♦ Reference and background checks

Forty hours of training are provided which include classroom attendance, guest speakers, online resources, practice report writing and court observation. The training curriculum covers:

- ♦ Role and responsibilities of the CASA/GAL
- ♦ Child abuse and neglect
- ♦ Juvenile court process
- ♦ Cultural awareness
- ♦ Child development, attachment and bonding
- ♦ Substance abuse, mental illness, domestic violence & poverty
- ♦ Information gathering and interviewing
- ♦ Report writing