

A young girl with long dark hair, wearing a purple shirt and a grey cardigan, stands next to a woman with long dark hair wearing a green zip-up top. They are in a brightly lit hallway with other people in the background. The woman has her arm around the girl's shoulder.

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

CASA Volunteers and the Fight Against Human Trafficking

Pennsylvania Court Appointed Special Advocates

November 10, 2021



Contents

CASA

Definition

Best-Interest Advocacy

Guiding Principles

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Statistics

Vulnerability

Risk Factors

CASA and HUMAN TRAFFICKING

How CASA Can Help

Resources Needed

Court Appointed Special Advocates



CASA volunteers are compassionate, objective, self-motivated individuals from the community who are trained and qualified to advocate for the **best interests** of children and youth who are before the court as a result of abuse or neglect, living at home or in out-of-home care.

CASA volunteers come from all walks of life.



Best Interest Advocacy

LEARN

Learn all you can about the child from their family & life.

ENGAGE

Engage with the child during regular visits.

RECOMMEND

Make recommendations regarding the child's placement & needed services.

REPORT

Report what you have learned and observed to the court.

COLLABORATE

Collaborate with others to ensure that necessary services are provided.



Guiding Principles

CASA provides best-interest advocacy for children as reflected in these guiding principles:

- Recognizes the importance of family preservation and/or reunification
- Recognizes the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Recognizes the importance of collaboration

Human Trafficking

4 out of 5

victims of human trafficking have spent time in the child welfare system.

Vulnerability

- Opportunities for **attachment** are scarce
- Shuffled from ***place to place***
- Learn to survive by **accepting what is happening** and **doing what they are told**

Risk Factors

- Past physical or sexual abuse
- Trauma
- Development disabilities
- Homelessness
- Running away

CASA and Human Trafficking



CASA Volunteers

Dedicated volunteers with a caseload of **one**

Show kids they **care**

Help children see their **value**

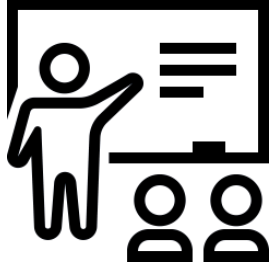


How CASAs Can Help

- Help **model** healthy relationships
- **Recognize** risky behavior and warning signs
- **Make recommendations** for intervention and services
- **Collaborate** with child welfare team
- **Stay connected!**



Resources Needed



**SPECIALIZED
KNOWLEDGE**
about human trafficking



ACCESS
to the latest research



**COMPREHENSIVE
NETWORK**
of community partners



SUPPORT + SUPERVISION
of colleagues who understand



Thank You



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

PENNSYLVANIA