

Dear Potential Volunteer,

Thank you for expressing an interest in volunteering for the Douglas County CASA program. The first step in becoming a CASA volunteer is to complete the enclosed application and return all forms to our office as soon as possible. You may return the application via the return envelope provided, or drop it by our office located on the third floor of the Douglas County Court House. All applications to Douglas County CASA must include four references (at least one from employment or volunteer experience). Additionally, applicants must be 21 years of age or older, and agree to a child abuse registry check and a criminal background check.

In order to protect children and provide the court with qualified volunteers, fingerprint-based national criminal history record investigation will be conducted on every applicant. The Office of Judicial Administration will submit your fingerprints and receive the report on your criminal history investigation. Applicants determined ineligible to serve as volunteers based on their criminal history background investigation will have the opportunity to verify their identity with the Office of Judicial Administration and to appeal this determination with the Chief Judge of the Judicial District of his or her designee. Applicants who do not provide fingerprints for criminal history background checks will not be approved to serve as CASA volunteers.

Upon receiving your application, the CASA Administrative Assistant will call to set up a personal interview with the Executive Director or one of the Volunteer Coordinators. This interview will last about an hour and can be scheduled to fit your needs. After completing the interview your application will be staffed by our office. You will then receive a letter of acceptance or non-acceptance into the CASA training program.

Screening procedures which continue throughout the training sessions are necessary to ensure the safety of the children we serve. If you have any questions or concerns regarding these procedures, please feel free to call me at 832-5172.

I believe you will find that becoming a CASA volunteer is a challenging but rewarding experience. You will have the opportunity to work with the social welfare and judicial systems, become more involved in your community, improve your interviewing skills, and make a difference in the life of a child.

CASA volunteers have been making a difference in the lives of abused and neglected children for more than 20 years. I look forward to meeting with you to discuss how you, too, can help a child in need to find a safe, permanent home. One child at a time, we can make a difference.

Sincerely,

*Diana Frederick*

Executive Director