A Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) is a trained community volunteer who is appointed by a judge to advocate for the best interest of an abused or neglected child in juvenile court dependency proceedings.

The CASA volunteer gathers information about the child’s situation, attends court proceedings, and makes a recommendation to the judge so that the judge has the information to make a decision about the child’s future.

A CASA volunteer protects a child’s right to be safe, to be treated with dignity and respect, and to learn and grow in the safe embrace of a loving family.

QUALIFICATIONS
- Sincere care for the well-being of children
- At least 21 years of age
- Good verbal and written communication skills
- Ability to be objective & non-judgmental
- Available to attend all court hearings
- Commitment to CASA program for at least 18 months or until case is resolved

HOW TO BECOME A CASA
- Complete an application, including four professional references
- Undergo criminal background checks
- Be interviewed by a CASA staff member
- Complete 40 hours of training
- Be sworn-in and appointed by a judge

CASA RESPONSIBILITIES
- Visit the child at least once per month
- Keep the child informed of all aspects of the court proceedings
- Gather independent information about the child to make recommendations to the judge in the child’s best interest
- Seek cooperative solutions with other participants in the child’s case, including the child’s attorney
- Interview the parents, guardians or caretakers, social worker, teachers and other service providers
- Prepare written reports for court hearings
- Identify potential resources within the family, school and community to meet the child’s needs
- Monitor provisions of service plans and court orders
- Ensure the child’s wishes are known to the judge
- Attend and participate in court hearings and other related meetings
- Keep all records and information confidential
- Advocate for the child in the community
- Consult with Fulton County CASA staff for support and guidance
- Maintain focus on the child until permanency is achieved

To get started or for more information:
Email: contactus@FultonCountyCASA.org
Phone: 404-612-4726, Volunteer Recruiter
        404-613-4458, Volunteer Training Specialist
Website: www.fultoncountycasa.org