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## Cumberland County **COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE** Program

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Cumberland County CASA Program  
1 Courthouse Square, Suite 301  
Carlisle, PA 17013



## Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Make a Difference in a Child's Life: Become a Cumberland County CASA Volunteer – Join Our Virtual Info Session on Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2026

**Carlisle, PA** – The Cumberland County Court Appointed Special Advocates Program, (CASA), needs volunteers to work with abused and/or neglected children involved in the child welfare court system. CASA volunteers play a crucial role in ensuring that children's voices are heard and their needs are addressed in court.

Residents interested in becoming CASA volunteers are invited to attend one of two virtual informational sessions:

Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2026

- Noon - 1 p.m.
- 6 - 7 p.m.

To register, please email your name and preferred session time to [casa@cumberlandcountypa.gov](mailto:casa@cumberlandcountypa.gov), or call **717.240.6159**.

"CASA volunteers are trained community members who serve as the 'eyes and ears' of the court after being appointed by a judge to advocate for the best interest of the child, many of whom are in foster care," said Anita Brewster, Cumberland County CASA Program Director. "CASA volunteers ensure that the child's 'voice' is heard in court and that needs of the child are being addressed."

#### How to Become a CASA Volunteer

Volunteers must be at least 21 years old, pass background clearances, complete a comprehensive interview process, and undergo 50 hours of training. The training covers the CASA volunteer role, the child welfare system, and advocacy skills. Most volunteers dedicate 10-20 hours per month to their advocacy work, with cases typically lasting between 18-24 months.

## **CASA Volunteer Responsibilities**

- **Gather Information:** To inform the court of the child's situation, a volunteer must gather in-depth knowledge of the child and his or her family situation.
- **Advocate:** Provide the facts to the court through written reports and speaking on the child's behalf for the child's best interest.
- **Facilitate:** Communicate between the parties for services to support the child's needs.
- **Monitor:** Stay informed of the child's situation until a safe, permanent home has been achieved.

These four key roles are essential to helping the court make the most informed decisions for the child's well-being.

CASA is a national program, and there are over 950 programs across the nation. It is the only program of its kind and is built around assigning one caring adult advocate to the case of one abused and/or neglected child or sibling group.

For more information, visit [cumberlandcountypa.gov/casa](http://cumberlandcountypa.gov/casa), email [casa@cumberlandcountypa.gov](mailto:casa@cumberlandcountypa.gov), or call at 717.240.6159.

**Training for new CASA volunteers** is scheduled to begin **early March 2026**. Additional training sessions will be held in the **Fall of 2026**.

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