



Our Mission

The Hanover CASA Program is committed to advocating for the best interests of children involved in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court process. The CASA program recruits, trains, and supervises competent volunteers dedicated to representing the needs of abused and neglected children, as well as other children in juvenile dependency proceedings. The program promotes safe, permanent homes for all children and seeks to educate the community concerning the needs of abused and neglected children.

Court Appointed Special Advocates a program of Hanover County Department of Community Resources

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CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN
HANOVER COUNTY
Hanover CASA
Department of Community Resources
P.O. Box 470
Hanover, VA 23069



Member of
The National Court Appointed
Special Advocate Association



Hanover Court Appointed Special Advocate Program

You can become a CASA Volunteer.

If you care about children, are a mature, responsible adult, and have time to commit, then you may qualify to be a CASA Volunteer for Hanover County. CASA Volunteers come from all walks of life, and have a variety of professional, educational, and ethnic backgrounds. No special experience is required.

Volunteers are selected on the basis of their objectivity, competence, and commitment. Once accepted, volunteers receive in-depth training and on-going monthly support sessions. Volunteers learn about courtroom procedure, the social service and juvenile court systems, and the special needs of children who have been abused and neglected. With the exception of court appearances, volunteers have considerable flexibility in scheduling interviews and other appointments.

CASA Volunteers understand that the work may be challenging, but it is also gratifying.

**Call Hanover CASA at
365-4300 or email
volunteer @co.hanover.va.us
to volunteer or to find other ways
that you can help!**

What is CASA?

All children have a right to a home with loving people to care for them. But each year in the United States, millions of children are abused, neglected, or abandoned by their families. Eventually many of them end up in court with a judge deciding their future. Should they remain in foster care? Be reunited with parents? Or be adopted?

Many children become victims of an overburdened child welfare system that cannot pay close attention to each child. Sometimes a child can remain adrift in foster care for months, even years.

That's where CASA comes in. CASA Volunteers are Court Appointed Special Advocates for children – trained community volunteers appointed by a judge to speak up for abused and neglected children in court.



History of CASA

In 1977 a judge in Seattle, Washington realized he did not have enough information to make informed decisions about the abused and neglected children that came before him. Believing that trained volunteers could provide the best form of independent advocacy for these children, he began recruiting volunteers who could make such a commitment. Today there are over 900 CASA Programs nationwide.

The Hanover CASA Program was established in 1988 and is the second oldest program in Virginia. Hanover CASA is a part of the Hanover County Department of Community Resources and serves both Hanover and Caroline Counties.

What does a CASA Volunteer Do?

CASA Volunteers are men and women who want to help children. They work alongside attorneys and social workers as appointed officers of the court.

When a CASA Volunteer is appointed to a child's case, he or she is responsible for taking the time to find out as much as possible about that child. CASA review records, interview parents, talk to teachers, neighbors, and most importantly, the child. These volunteers present the information they have gathered in the form of a report to the judge.

