

Become a CASA Volunteer

If you or someone you know would like more information about the

Nassau County Family Court Advocate Program

or would like to volunteer, contact:

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EAC Network's Family Court Advocate Programs are supported through funds from the Unified Court System and private donations. Cost for training sessions are partially offset by I.O.L.A.



EAC Network is a not-for-profit social service agency that empowers, assists, and cares for over 70,000 people in need through 70+ programs across Long Island and New York City. Our mission is to respond to human needs with programs and services that protect children, promote healthy families and communities, help seniors, and empower individuals to take control of their lives.

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Trained volunteers advocating for children in foster care.

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Make a difference in a child's life - be a CASA volunteer.

What is the Nassau County Family Court Advocate Program (FCAP)?

Nassau County FCAP is a foster-care advocacy program in which trained volunteers assist the Family Court by fact-finding, interviewing, and reporting on children in foster care.

Who are the volunteers?

The volunteers, known as Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs), are interested men and women from all walks of life, trained by EAC Network to work with program staff, children in care, and the courts.

How does the program work?

Each child who is in foster care has his or her case reviewed periodically by a Family Court judge. At the time of the case review, if the judge needs additional information, or would like an objective opinion on the child's placement and progress, the court will appoint a CASA volunteer. All appointments are made through the Nassau County Family Court Advocate Program, which then assigns volunteers based on availability, skills, and the needs of the particular case.



What types of cases does the program handle?

Nassau County FCAP may be involved in a wide range of cases. These include children who have been placed in foster care by their families (either voluntarily or involuntarily), victims of abuse or neglect, or children who are awaiting adoption.



What does the volunteer do?

When a case is assigned to a CASA volunteer, (s)he will speak with any caseworkers from public or private agencies who are caring for the child. (S)he will interview those workers, and will make visits to the child in the foster home. Other parties to the case who may be contacted include school officials, therapists, doctors, and/or family attorneys.

Why do the courts use advocates?

Studies have shown that children who have been assigned CASA volunteer advocates tend to spend less time in court and less time within the foster care system. CASAs can make recommendations to the court which are "in the best interests of the child" and which are independent of the state agency restrictions.

What training do volunteers receive?

CASA volunteers are trained in the laws and procedures surrounding the foster care system, how to interview, writing reports for the court, and working with families within the foster care system.

How do I become a CASA volunteer?

- Fill out an application
- Schedule an interview
- Participate in the training program

