



The Five Main Points to a CASA Conversation

These are the five points that you are going to want to touch on when you are speaking to someone interested in CASA. You have the freedom to express these points however you feel is most effective, so only use this as an outline.

1. What CASA volunteers do

- Form a trusting relationship with an abused or neglected child or sibling group (going to dinner, the park, etc.)
- Interact with others on the case (caseworker, attorney, etc.)
- Interact with those with knowledge of the child (caregivers, teachers, therapists, etc.)
- Make recommendations to the judge on what you feel is in the child's best interest (adoption, reunification, etc.)

2. Why CASA is needed

- Provides a consistent person for the child (changing homes, caseworkers, etc)
- Gives the child someone to talk to
- Offers judge a unique perspective on the case (CASA can speak to what is best for that particular situation and is not bound by the same restrictions that caseworkers and attorneys are)
- Helps determine where the child should live the rest of their childhood (adoption, family member, etc.)

3. Time commitment

- Average of 15 – 20 hours per month (entails time w/child, phone calls, researching the case, writing court reports, going to meetings, etc.)
- Commitment of 1 year (if case continues, volunteer has the choice to stay on)
- Flexibility!!! (no set schedule for when to spend time with child, there is back up from the CASA's supervisor, CASA knows well in advance of court dates and important meetings)

4. Training/Supervision

- No prior experience, education, or training necessary to volunteer
- 10 training classes to prepare you to be an effective advocate
- Volunteers are matched with a staff professional to assist volunteer throughout case

5. How to become a volunteer - very important to include!

- Call – 512-459-2272
- Email – volunteer@casatravis.org
- Website – www.casatravis.org
- Attend- CASA's Monthly Open House at CASA Office (Dates on website)
- The steps - application, interview then CASA 101



Presenting your CASA experience

Everyone's CASA story is unique, and we are definitely not going to try and tell you what to say or how to say it. It's your story. But, there is a difference in telling your CASA story to a family member or friend and telling your story to a prospective volunteer or as a presentation. That is why there are a few pointers to help you organize your story to be effective in recruiting volunteers.

Here are some things to make sure and include. These are things that prospective volunteers want to hear.

1. How **you** became a volunteer and why **you** do it
2. What **you** get out of volunteering/How it makes **you** feel
3. What **you** do as a volunteer/How **you** connect with your CASA child
4. How **you** make a difference in your CASA kid's life

Personal stories are extremely effective recruitment tools. People want to make sure that if they volunteer, they will be making a real difference. Also, when people see an everyday person or someone they relate to make a difference, they start to see how they can, too. As long as you express that, your story will be great!