



## TRAINING DETAILS

Training is a dynamic process designed to equip volunteers with the necessary skills and information to support and advocate for a foster child. It is a two-way learning process that allows you, the volunteer, to learn about the system, the processes, and the how-to's of being a CASA while also giving our staff an opportunity to learn more about you. CASA of Monterey County's curriculum combines training elements from the National CASA model and California CASA model, as well as information relevant to our local area. The topics covered in the comprehensive 30-35-hour training program include:

1. The History and Background of CASA, nationally and locally
2. The Role and Responsibilities of the CASA Volunteer
3. Social Services and Child Welfare
4. Juvenile Dependency Law and Court Processes
5. The Perspective of Current Advocates and Former Foster Youth
6. Dynamics of Child Abuse and Neglect
7. Child Development and Family Systems
8. Substance Abuse
9. Case Planning and Record-keeping
10. Court Appearances and Types of Hearings
11. Report Writing and Information Sharing
12. Education Law and Advocacy
13. Mandated Reporting
14. Developing Strong Advocacy Skills
15. Ethics, Confidentiality of Information
16. Cross-Cultural Issues/ Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
17. Run Away Youth
18. Community Resources for Children
19. Quality of life/personal rights of foster youth
20. Relevant state and federal laws

Each trainee will participate in court observation. As a trainee, you're responsible for attending all training sessions. Once all your training is complete, you are ready to be sworn in as an Officer of the Court.

After your training is complete, you'll participate in a final interview. This interview has several purposes: to allow you to evaluate the training and make suggestions to strengthen future training, to help program staff match you with appropriate cases, or to talk about concerns or questions that were raised during training. Finally, you will review a few recommended cases and be on the way to serving your first CASA child!