

## CASA

### *Serving Bay, Huron, & Saginaw Counties*

Our mission is to provide highly trained volunteers as a powerful voice that advocate for a safe, permanent and loving environment for children who are in the Bay, Huron or Saginaw County court system because of abuse or neglect.

## Michigan CASA Association

Michigan CASA, Inc. is dedicated to changing the lives of abused and neglected children by advocating for their best interests through establishing, supporting, and expanding quality CASA programs throughout the state of Michigan to ensure every child that needs a volunteer, has one.

## National CASA Association

In addition to providing leadership for CASA programs across the country, the National CASA Association stages an annual conference, publishes a newsletter and promotes CASA through public relations efforts. National CASA offers consultations and resources to help start CASA programs and provides vital assistance to established programs.

### **OTHER CAN COUNCIL PROGRAMS:**

- Children's Advocacy Centers
- Child Abuse Prevention Education

## Learn

The CAN Council helps prevent child abuse and neglect through education, awareness, intervention and advocacy programs.

## Donate

Make a contribution to help support the CAN Council and its programs.

## Volunteer

As a CAN Council volunteer, you can help prevent child abuse.

## Speak Up

Report child abuse to Children's Protective Services:  
**(855) 444-3911**



### **Bay County**

715 N. Euclid Avenue  
Bay City, MI 48706  
(989) 671-1345 • Fax (989) 671-2365

### **Huron County**

219 E. Huron Avenue  
Bad Axe, MI 48413  
(989) 623-0257 • Fax (989) 623-0910

### **Saginaw County**

1311 N. Michigan Avenue  
Saginaw, MI 48602  
(989) 752-7226 • Fax (989) 752-2777

[cancouncil.org](http://cancouncil.org)



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WHEN A CHILD LANDS IN COURT

# CASA

## Court Appointed Special Advocates

A powerful voice in a child's life



# What is CASA?



CASAs are ordinary people making extraordinary contributions to the lives of abused and neglected children.

Every child has the right to a safe, permanent, and caring home.

It is up to a family court judge to decide the child's future.

- Is it safe to return home?
- Will the child remain in foster care for the rest of his or her childhood?
- Will adoption be the permanent solution?

More and more family court judges in Michigan are turning to CASAs for consistent and thorough information about a child's circumstances.

CASAs are citizen volunteers, specially trained and appointed by family court judges to speak up for these most vulnerable children.

CASAs are respected and trusted sources of crucial information. A CASA will research the case, assess the facts, identify key problems and submit court reports.

CASAs attend hearings, provide insight to the judge and recommend actions in the best interest of the child.

Foster care workers have many children on their caseload and cannot devote all of their time to a single case. A CASA volunteer is appointed to only one child or sibling group at a time. CASAs work in partnership with attorneys and foster care workers as appointed officers of the court. The CASA takes time to find out as much as possible about the child from relatives, mental health professionals, and teachers and provides objective information to the family court judge.

The CASA may be the only consistent adult a child has contact with during his or her case. Cases have an average length of 18 months, but can last several years.

## How Can I Help?

CASA volunteers come from all walks of life, with a variety of professional, educational and ethnic backgrounds. A social work or legal background is not required. CASA volunteers are screened and receive more than 30+ hours of training on Michigan law, the child protection system, the dynamics of abuse and neglect, child development, and the family court.

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a volunteer CASA in your community, please call (989) 752-7226. Visit [cancouncil.org/casa](http://cancouncil.org/casa) to fill out an online application.

## MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR CASA VOLUNTEERS

- 21 years of age or older
- High school diploma or GED
- Strong written and verbal communication skills
- Clear background checks
- Objectivity
- Common sense and persistence
- A commitment to the best interests of children
- Completion of 30+ hours of initial training
- 12-20 hours of volunteer work monthly



Together we CAN stop child abuse and neglect.

The CAN Council is a nonprofit organization that depends on the financial gifts of caring people in our community. Your tax-deductible gift will let us provide a safe, caring place for children to be expertly interviewed and examined, lessening the trauma and providing the best opportunity for their safety in the future.