

CASA Advocacy Competencies Checklist



Volunteer Name:

Date:

Knowledge, Skills, and Attributes		
	Current Strength	To Develop
<i>Communication</i>		
Confidently and professionally advocates for the child's needs for safety, permanence, and wellbeing both in oral and written communication		
Is able to establish trust and rapport with all parties		
Is able to speak and write clearly and concisely while still being thorough		
Is able to work collaboratively and manage conflicts effectively		
Communicates in a way to treat others with dignity and respect.		
Is an active listener		
<i>Cultural Awareness & Diversity</i>		
Understands and demonstrates self-awareness in order to challenge and eliminate the influence of personal biases.		
Demonstrates cultural humility and recognizes that the individual or family are the true experts in their culture.		

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Treats others with dignity and respect and respects the perspectives, values, experiences, lifestyles, and input from others		
<i>Sound Judgement</i>		
Adheres to all policies, ethical guidelines, procedures, and instructions from CASA staff		
Exhibits flexibility and support to decisions made by others on the team		
Manages perplexing and challenging situations by collaborating and staying focused on the needs of the child		
Anticipates and recognizes potential problems and is able to evaluate alternative decisions		
Is effective in making objective assessments and appropriate case recommendations based on a thorough review of all information		
<i>Initiative</i>		
Is self-motivated, action-oriented, and passionate about speaking up for children		
Is resourceful and can identify needs and seeks to identify services to meet needs		
Keeps the goal of permanency in mind and voices concerns regarding any service gaps		

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Pursues relevant information and has integrity with any needed follow up		
Advocates for access to quality, individualized services		
Is willing to respectfully challenge the status quo and is willing to explore creative strategies to resolve issues		
Recognizes when to seek guidance and support from coordinator and doesn't hesitate to contact them for any reason		
<i>Foundations of Knowledge</i>		
Continues to learn about the roles of others on the case (e.g., DCS worker, attorneys, service providers, etc.)		
Understands Federal Laws pertaining to the CASA role and responsibilities and the impact of these laws on the child welfare system		
Strengthens knowledge of core concepts, such as abuse and neglect, permanency, MSL, child development, cultural awareness, attachment, trauma, substance abuse, etc.		
Is able to identify strengths and needs in assigned case		
Participates in ongoing professional development to strengthen advocacy skills		
Understands State Code of Judicial Conduct, statutes, state and local policies as an officer of the court		

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Recognizes the need for confidentiality and understands what information can be shared with which parties		
Expands knowledge of the child welfare, education, and mental health systems, as well as best practices for child advocacy		
<i>Self- Care</i>		
Exhibits healthy coping strategies (including maintaining a healthy lifestyle) and is aware of personal limitations		
Sets clear, healthy boundaries and seeks to prevent burnout		
Strives for balance in work, personal relationship, play, and rest		
Knows when to ask for and accept help		
Is able to maintain a sense of hope and optimism.		