



CASA CHRONICLE

December 2025

Holiday Tips for CASAs

Practice Self-Care

During the holiday season, we tend to have busy schedules with all of the festivities, be sure to schedule time for your own self-care.

Just say “No”

Yes, even to your CASA Coordinator if you must.... Your time is valuable, and your energy is limited. Enjoy your holiday season! With a heart that’s willing to help, it can be easy to become overscheduled and overwhelmed. Be sure to find a balance!

Ask for Help

It’s okay to need help. If it’s related to CASA, give your coordinator a call today! Holidays can be hard. For personal help, Crisis can help~ Text HOME to 741741 to connect with a trained crisis counselor.



Congratulations!

CASA welcomes two new advocates! See page 2 for more information and photos!



Reminder

CASA Training Hours

All CASA Volunteers are required to log 12 hours of annual training in CASAaz before 12/31/2025.

CASA of Gila County is excited to announce the addition of two new advocates to our team! On November 20, 2025, Laura M. and Tracie F. took their Oath of Service before the Honorable Bryan B. Chambers in Globe. Joined by their families, Laura and Tracie completed the CASA Applicant process by pledging to support the children of Gila County as Court Appointed Special Advocates. We are truly grateful to welcome them to our remarkable team of volunteers in Gila County!



Congratulations

LAURA M. & TRACIE F.

HAPPY Anniversary!



5th



2nd



3rd

Happy Birthday
Tracie F.



DCS

Grand Opening

Nov 19, 2025

The Department of Child Safety has moved to a new building, be sure to update your address book!



409 W. Main St., Payson, AZ 85541

The holidays – often seen as a time of joy, family gatherings, and celebration – can be a challenging period for children in foster care. While many children eagerly anticipate festive traditions, gifts, and family reunions, those in foster care might face a mix of emotions ranging from sadness and anxiety to loneliness. Foster parents can play a crucial role in helping these children navigate the holiday season, making it a time of comfort and joy despite the inherent challenges.

The Emotional Challenges of the Holidays

Separation from Family: Children in foster care are separated from their biological families, which can be particularly painful during the holidays. Memories of past holidays with their birth families can surface, leading to feelings of loss and sadness.

Uncertainty and Instability: The holidays can heighten the sense of instability that children in foster care often experience. The anticipation of reunification or permanent placement can be a source of stress and anxiety.

Cultural Differences: For children placed in foster homes with different cultural or religious traditions, the holidays can be a stark reminder of what they have lost, leading to feelings of isolation.

Triggering Past Trauma: Holidays can sometimes trigger traumatic memories, especially if past holidays were marked by neglect, abuse, or conflict. This can lead to heightened emotional responses and behavioral challenges.

(The Holidays and Foster Care, December 5, 2024)

<https://www.affcf.org/the-holidays-and-foster-care>

How CASA's Can Help:

As a child's CASA, you cannot change the child's circumstances during the holiday season, but you can help!

1. Learn about the child and family's culture and holiday traditions. With the child's culture in mind, consider holiday crafts during your December visit.
2. Be a visit they can count on. With your personal calendar in mind, work with the child's placement to schedule a visit. Be sure to check in with the child and say hello. Be the consistent adult they know remembers them during the season.
3. Talk with the child about their traditions. Maybe there is a holiday tradition that you can assist with? Is there a holiday food that they miss? Or a holiday movie they always watch? Be sure to talk with the placement, if you have an idea.
4. Respect their space. It can be hard to give our CASA children space when we want to help, but for some, space may be what they need.
5. Understand the busy schedule of caregivers. While we want to see our CASA children, we must be respectful of the caregiver's plans, traditions, and schedule also.

CASA TRIVIA MATCH

How often do
CASA volunteers have
to re-certify?



False

4 Years

15

Safety and Best Interest

12

True

Yearly

Best Interest and Services

Needs and Wants

15

24

2 Years

1



True or False:
CASA Volunteers can
ask for donations for
their assigned child.



What do CASA
volunteers advocate for?



How many CASA
programs are in AZ?



True or False:
There are only 3
volunteer statuses.



Bonus: How many CASA
are active in Gila
County now?



CASAs, list your answers when you log your 30 minutes of training time (for reading the CASA Chronicle) on the Dashboard. Each correct answer will enter your name into a prize drawing to be held at the end of the year. Answers will be provided in next month's issue of the CASA Chronicle.

CASA in the Community

Holiday Bazaar

Friday December 05, 2025
9:00AM-2:00PM
103 Medicine Way Road
Peridot, AZ

ReadOn Express

Saturday, December 13, 2025
12:00PM- 4:00PM
230 South Broad Street
Globe, AZ

November Trivia Answers

1. Arizona Early Intervention Program, this is a service for children under the age of 3 years to be assessed to ensure they are meeting developmental milestones, if services are needed they are free for the family.
2. False, if a family feels that a biological parent is ready to resume their parenting role they can petition the court to review the need for the guardianship.
3. 21 years old
4. Department of Child Safety
5. Order of Appointment signed by the Presiding Juvenile Judge or Presiding Judge in Gila County.

BONUS: CASA Coordinator and CASA Volunteer

CASA Support Groups

Globe:

December 03, 2025
4:00PM-5:00PM
Globe CASA Office/Zoom

Payson:
TBD



Contact Us

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www.CASAofGilaCounty.org



**CASA OFFICES
WILL BE
CLOSED
12/25/2025**

