



CASA COMMUNICATOR

At CASA for KIDS, we believe in the power of volunteers to change children's lives.

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Newsletter Highlights:

- Rule 48; What CASA Volunteers NEED to Know
- CASA for KIDS Working Agreement with JFS
- CASA Appreciation Evening
- Ohio CASA Conference
- Kids Safety Day



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Rule 48; What CASA Volunteers NEED to Know

We introduced the new Rule 48 in a past newsletter after it became effective in March 2009. This is a Rule of Superintendence of the Ohio Supreme Court that was established to provide standards for all GALs. Many CASA programs in Ohio are reporting that the courts are receiving inquiries as to whether CASA volunteers and attorney GALs are meeting the requirements of Rule 48. Therefore, it is important that you know the requirements in the event you are asked in court (an attorney for parents may ask). The following are the most frequent compliance checks:

D 2 A guardian ad litem shall maintain independence, objectivity and fairness...

D 13

(a) Meet with and interview the child and observe the child with each parent, foster parent, guardian or physical custodian and conduct at least one interview with the child where none of these individuals is present;

(d) Meet with and interview the parties, foster parents and other significant individuals who may have relevant knowledge regarding the issues of the case;

(g) Interview school personnel, medical and mental health providers, child protective services workers and relevant court personnel and obtain copies of relevant records;

E (4) The continuing education course (required on a yearly basis) must be at least three hours in length and be provided by the Supreme Court of Ohio or by the Ohio CASA/GAL Association, or with prior approval of the appointing court, be a training that complies with division (5) of this rule. Any training that our program sponsors meets the requirement. Also, trainings in the community that we inform CASA volunteers about meet the requirement.

It is highly recommended that you go to the www.geaugacasa.org website and review Rule 48, Section D: Responsibilities of a Guardian ad litem, Section E: Training requirements and Section F: Reports of Guardians ad litem

You should also be aware of the following requirement of Rule 48:

D(14) A guardian ad litem shall immediately identify himself or herself as a guardian ad litem when contacting individuals in the course of a particular case and shall inform these individuals about the guardian ad litem's role and that documents and information obtained may become part of court proceedings.

As a result, we have created a handout for CASA volunteers to give to individuals whom you are asking for information. We will e-mail to everyone soon and add this to the private section of the website.



Every child deserves a voice in court!



National CASA website: www.casaforchildren.org
Access to online training, podcasts and much more, check it out!



Ohio CASA Website: www.ohiocasa.org
Support for local CASA/GAL programs and volunteers through the provision of leadership, technical assistance, training and quality assurance. Visit their website to learn more.

Working Agreement Established Between CASA and JFS

A working agreement between CASA and JFS Family Services was recently established in order to provide more clarity and consistency in our collaboration. We have posted the full agreement (only 2 pages long) on the www.geaugacasa.org website in the private section for volunteers. The agreement sets a protocol for reviewing files at JFS. In addition, the responsibilities for coordination are listed for: CASA Supervisors, CASA volunteers, JFS Supervisors and JFS Assessment and Ongoing Social Workers. Please take the time to become familiar with this easy to read document. You may wish to print out a copy to keep with your case for reference.

CASA Appreciation Evening



Advocates of the Year
Sandra and Steve Thompson
and Janet Rice

Our annual appreciation evening was held May 5, 2010 at Bass Lake Taverne in Chardon. Advocates of the year Sandra and Steve Thompson and Janet Rice were recognized for their dedicated service to the CASA program.

Job and Family Services caseworkers Jillian Barath and Greg Iacofano were also recognized as our Community Advocates of the year for their dedication and commitment to the children and families we serve.



16th Annual Ohio CASA Conference

Changing the lives of children one child at a time!

This year's conference will offer a balance between workshops appropriate for beginners and experienced CASA volunteers as well as program management and board members. It will be held at the Doubletree Hotel in Columbus, Ohio, from 5:00 pm, Thursday, Sept. 30 through 1:00 pm, Saturday, Oct. 2. Contact Karolyn in the CASA office at 279-1699 by August 19, if you wish to attend.



Happy Birthday to the following CASA Volunteers.

July Birthdays

Dyan Michalski 7/3
Joan Butler 7/17
Pat Kane 7/19

August Birthdays

Katie Turk 8/25
Lindi Herman 8/26
Karen Smith 8/27
Carol Metz 8/28
Richard Suttell 8/29
Don Kaufman 8/31

September Birthdays

Judie Caster 9/1
Georgette Frate-Mikus 9/2
Tammy Stachowiak 9/17
Laura Hufgard 9/23
Pamela Zakacs 9/30

Annual Kid's Safety Day

Sponsored by CASA for KIDS
Saturday, September 11, 2010, 11 am-2 pm
at Burton Century Village
Corners of Route 87 and Route 168

This event is designed to provide information, interactive experiences and resources about keeping kids safe in many environments. Ask us how you can volunteer to help.

Fall training class needs recruits!

CASA for KIDS is currently recruiting volunteers for a pre-service training class that will begin in the fall of 2010. If you know of anyone who might be interested in volunteering please have them contact the CASA office at 279-1699 or direct them to our website at www.geaugacasa.org.

CASA Resource Room

The resource room in the CASA office has age appropriate activity bags for the children you advocate for. They are filled with arts and crafts supplies, books, games, and enrichment workbooks. Why not stop by and pick one up to take with you the next time you visit your CASA child.

**Please Welcome !
Spring 2010 CASA Training Class**



Back row- Stacey Taylor, Elizabeth Sayre, Sue Waldorff, Karen Smith, Sue Lundstrom, Cindy Reed, Nicole Kosar, Judge Henry, Richard Suttell. Front row- Colleen Burlinghaus, Wendy Anderson, Donna Cummings, Mary Dolph, Jim McAdams, and Lindi Herman

Training Opportunities

Ohio CASA Conference

Sept. 30 – Oct. 2
Great opportunity for training and networking with fellow volunteers. Call the CASA office to register by 8/19.

Bellflower Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse

Monthly trainings on the *Impact of Child Abuse*
Sept. 17 and Oct. 22
Contact the CASA office to register.

CASA Sponsored Diversity Training

University Hospitals
Geauga Medical Center
Meeting Room
13207 Ravenna Road
Chardon
Nov. 2, 2010
6-9 pm

Anthony President will present a program on "Filtering the Noise From Young Hood Boys"
Call 279-1699 to register

National CASA On-Line Trainings

Training topics specific to the CASA volunteers work. Contact the CASA office for instructions on how to access this training.