

CASA Volunteer Screening Interview

Name: _____

Date of Interview: _____

CASA Interviewer: _____

Due to the types of issues that our CASA volunteers have to deal with we have to ask some questions that cover some sensitive issues. It is important for our agency to be aware of the personal experiences you will be bringing with you into your role as a CASA volunteer. Tell us about yourself...

1. Have you done any other kinds of volunteer work before? Yes No
If yes, what? _____

2. Do you have experience working with people from different cultures, races, religions, etc.? Yes No
If yes, what? _____

3. Why do you want to be a CASA volunteer? _____

4. What are you hoping to get out of the experience of being a CASA volunteer? _____

5. Have you discussed becoming a volunteer with your spouse, family and/or friends? Yes No
If yes, were they supportive of your choice? Yes No
6. Do you have access to a printer? Yes No
7. As a CASA your research and recommendations for each case are presented largely through written reports to the presiding judge. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being 'very comfortable' and 1 being 'not at all comfortable', what is your comfort level with writing reports?
Not at all comfortable 1 2 3 4 5 *Very comfortable*
8. How would you define the following types of abuse towards a child:
 - a. Physical: _____

 - b. Sexual: _____

c. Neglect: _____

- i. "In the State of Oklahoma, spanking is legal up to the point of leaving a mark. Once a child enters the OKDHS system, it becomes illegal for anyone to spank them. This includes workers, foster parents and biological parents. It is important to remember if a child who is in DHS custody discloses they are being spanked, it is an automatic referral."

9. Why do you think child abuse and/or neglect occurs? _____

10. How do you feel about parents who abuse their children? _____

11. What do you think leads people to sexually abuse a child? _____

12. What course of action should be taken for people who abuse their children? _____

This set of questions will be specifically related to you at this present time:

Miscellaneous Personal Questions

1. Who currently lives in your home with you? _____

2. Are you presently employed? Yes No

If no, why? _____

If yes:

- What is your occupation: _____

- Do you work Full-Time or Part-Time, and what are your work hours?

o Sunday _____

o Monday _____

o Tuesday _____

o Wednesday _____

o Thursday _____

o Friday _____

o Saturday _____

- Do you have flexibility in your job schedule? Yes No

- Job satisfaction: _____

1. How would becoming a CASA volunteer fit into your employment situation? _____

2. Would you be available during the day to attend court hearings or staffing's regarding a case you were assigned to? Yes No If no, why? _____

3. Are you currently in school? Yes No

If yes:

- What College/University and what is your major? _____

- Are you Full-time or a Part-time student? FT PT

- What days of the week do you attend and what hours are your classes?

o Sunday _____

o Monday _____

o Tuesday _____

o Wednesday _____

o Thursday _____

o Friday _____

o Saturday _____

- What is your graduation goal? _____

4. How do you spend your leisure time? _____

5. Do you have any special skills or hobbies? Yes No If yes, what? _____

6. Using three (3) adjectives (i.e. characteristics, qualities, etc.) how would your closest friend describe you?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

7. Describe your temperament and/or personality: _____

How do you respond to direction or supervision? _____

8. What do you believe are your biggest strengths and weaknesses? _____

9. What things cause you the most stress? _____

10. What do you do to deal with the stress in your life? _____

11. Who do you rely on for emotional support? _____

12. Rate your life in terms of personal happiness. On a scale of 1 to 10 with 1 being the least happy/content and 10 being the most: *least happy* 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 *most happy*

13. If anything, what can you foresee as an issue that could inhibit your commitment as a CASA volunteer? _____

This section covers some more sensitive personal issues, but these issues are important to the contribution you will have as a CASA volunteer. Due to the kinds of families that as a CASA volunteer you will come in contact with, it is imperative that we are aware of the kinds of personal experiences you have had that could impact what you bring into your role as a CASA volunteer.

1. Do you have any health problems that may impair the performance of your role as a CASA volunteer? Yes No If yes, please explain: _____

2. Are you currently on any medication (over-the-counter or prescription) that may impair the performance of your role as a CASA volunteer? Yes No If yes, please explain? _____

3. Do you drink alcohol? Yes No

- If yes, how much and how frequently do you drink? _____

- If yes, has anyone ever complained about your drinking? _____
 - If yes, do you currently or have you had a drinking problem? Yes No
4. Do you use marijuana or any other recreational drugs? Yes No
- If yes, how much and how frequently do you use? _____
-
- If yes, do you currently or have you had a drug problem? Yes No
5. Have you ever been in treatment for an addiction problem? Yes No
6. Has anyone in your family ever had an alcohol or drug problem? Yes No If yes, what was the relation and did they get treatment? _____
-
7. What are your feelings about people who choose to seek psychological or mental health treatment? _____
8. As an adult, have you had any involvement with DHS (Child Welfare) in Oklahoma or any other state?
Yes No
9. What is your opinion of DHS? _____
-
10. Has a report of child abuse/neglect ever been made against you? Yes No
11. How do you feel about the police? _____
12. How do you feel about the court system? _____
13. Have you had any police or court involvement? Yes No If yes, explain: _____
-
14. Have you ever been convicted of a crime? Yes No If yes, explain: _____
-
15. Have you ever been close to anyone who has been a victim of domestic violence? Yes No
If yes, explain: _____
16. Have you ever witnessed or been a victim of domestic violence? Yes No If yes, explain: _____
-
17. Have you ever been close to anyone who has been physically, emotionally or sexually abused? Yes No
If yes, explain: _____
18. Have you ever been physically, emotionally or sexually abused? Yes No If yes, explain: _____
-
19. Would your views on homosexuality and/or interracial relationships impact how you work with individuals and professionals on a case? Yes No
20. Do you feel comfortable working on a case where abortion issues may be involved? Yes No

- 21. How do you feel about working with a child from a different income bracket than your own? _____

- 22. How do you feel about working with a family whose values are different from your own? _____

- 23. What, if anything, is intimidating about becoming a CASA volunteer? _____

Sometimes the court system can be frustrating. The system moves very slow and it is by far not a perfect system. Cases generally last anywhere from one year to multiple years and sometimes until a child ages out (at 18). In order to provide stability for these children we ask CASA volunteers to stay on the case as long as possible, ideally for the entire length of the case.

- That being said, do you feel you fully realize the importance of the commitment you are making to a child by agreeing to stay with the program for at least one (1) year? Yes No

CASA is not always wanted by the lawyers, social workers, or other professionals on the case, and sometimes even the families and the child(ren) are standoffish. It can be difficult to advocate for CASA's position in this situation.

- Do you think that you would be able to stand up for what you believed was in the best interest of the child(ren), even if it was different from the other professionals and the other parties in the case? Yes No

This section is in regards to the children that you imagine yourself working with:

Preferences:

- Male Female Does not matter
- Do you have an age preference? Yes No
- Would you take sibling groups? Yes No
- Do you have a race preference? Yes No
- Are you willing to travel? Yes No If yes, how far? _____

1. What types of abuse do you feel you can or cannot work with _____

2. Do you have adequate (at least liability) car insurance that would allow you to transport a child(ren) if necessary and provide proof of insurance? Yes No
3. Do you have any questions or comments? _____
