



For Immediate Release: July 26, 2019

**CASA VOLUNTEER CHILD ADVOCATE TRAINING REGISTRATION
UNDER WAY FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER CLASSES IN PROVIDENCE**

Are you an adult over age 21 who can give a voice to abused and neglected children in DCYF care? Right now, there are hundreds of Rhode Island children who need the caring presence and dedication of a CASA volunteer advocate. The Rhode Island Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children Program (RI CASA) is now accepting applications for upcoming evening training classes in September and October at the Garrahy Judicial Complex in Providence.

RI CASA was established by the Family Court in 1978 to provide dedicated advocates for abused, neglected and/or dependent children who become involved in the child welfare system through no fault of their own. Trained volunteer advocates work with CASA staff attorneys and social workers to promote the best interests of Rhode Island's most vulnerable kids. CASA strives to ensure that children don't "fall through the cracks" of the system that was put in place to help them.

Volunteer advocates are regarded as "the eyes and ears of the court." They visit regularly with children in their cases, gather and report information to the Court, and often become the only consistent adult in a child's life. Volunteer candidates must possess a valid driver's license, good judgment, and effective communication skills. All undergo background checks and personal interviews before completing a 30-hour training program with court observation.

According to the National CASA Association, a child served by a volunteer advocate is: more likely to be adopted, half as likely to re-enter foster care, less likely to spend time in long-term foster care, and more likely to do well in school. Help change a child's story! Volunteer application packets can be downloaded at www.friendsofricasa.org/volunteer. For more information, call 401-822-6706.

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