



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN



December 2023 Newsletter

Adams, Brown, Cass, Hancock, Morgan, Pike, Schuyler

Friendly Reminder's!

*This is the last month for continuing education hours before the reset for the new year. Please ensure you have 12 hours completed.

*If you have guest speaker recommendations for noon networking's for 2024. Let your coordinator know!

*Please ensure that if you are joining noon networking's via zoom that your cameras are on. Even if you are multi-tasking, cameras need to be on or you will not receive credit for continuing ed hours!

Sorry We're
CLOSED

December 22-
"Christmas Eve"

December 25-
Christmas Day



Birthdays!

6-Patricia Reep
14-Pat Waters
19-Pat Bell
28-Shirley Swinford
29-Amy Kerker

**Enjoy your
day!**

Adams, Pike, Brown, Cass, Schuyler Counties

Noon Networking
Topic: Adoption process;
Kelly Baker
When: December 14th, 2023
Time: 12:00pm
Location: 1420 Harrison
Quincy, IL 62301 and Zoom

Link for Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81249506392>

*Please note location
change*

DECEMBER

Movie Night

Join us to gain 2 hours for
continuing ed before end of
the year.

Movie: Take care of Maya
When: December 14th, 2023
Time: 5:15pm
Location: 1420 Harrison St.
*Baked potato bar and drinks
provided

Morgan County

Networking
Topic: DCFS CPS
supervisor Tara Geving
When: December 19th
Time: 12:00pm
Location: Presbyterian
Church, located at 870 W
College Ave in Jacksonville

!!!CASA Volunteers Needed!!!

CASA case numbers continue to grow in all counties, and we are in desperate need of volunteers for these children. If you know of anyone interested in volunteering, have them reach out to the CASA coordinator in your respective county or contact the Advocacy Network for Children at 217-223-2272.

Unassigned kids per county needing a volunteer:

Adams: 36 kids
Morgan: 33 kids
Pike: 24 kids
Hancock: 3 kids
Brown: 5 kids
Cass: 10 kids
Schuyler: 3 kids

A CASA VOLUNTEER WILL...

- *Assure that the child's best interests are being represented at every stage of the case, attend court hearings, and make written recommendations to the court on what decision are best for the child.
- *Determine if a permanent plan has been created for the child and whether appropriate services are being provided to the child and family.
- *Monitor the case by visiting the child as often as necessary to observe whether the child's essential needs are being met and whether the judge's orders are being carried out.
- *Gather information from all appropriate parties involved in the case.
- *Participate in any planning or treatment team meetings involving the child in order to keep informed of the child's permanent plan.
- * Report any incidents of child abuse or neglect to the CASA supervisor and appropriate authorities.
- * Maintain complete written records about the case, including appointments, interviews, and information gathered about the child.
- * Remain actively involved in the case until formally discharged by the court.

A CASA VOLUNTEER...

- *Is an individual who has been appointed by the court to advocate for abused and/or neglected children in the court system.
- *Has successfully passed screening requirements, which include a written application, personal interview, reference and criminal background checks.
- *Has successfully completed a minimum of 30 hours of initial training that includes instruction on the court and child welfare systems, child abuse and neglect, relevant state and federal laws, permanency planning and family preservation, cultural awareness, and the role and responsibilities of a CASA volunteer.
- *Reviews records, facilitates prompt thorough review of the case, and interviews appropriate parties in order to make recommendations in the best interest of the child.
- *Has a valid driver's license and access to an automobile.
- *Does not engage in activities which may jeopardize the safety of the child, the integrity of the program, or the objectivity of the volunteer. Does not engage in activities which are likely to result in conflict of interest or expose the program or the volunteer to criminal or civil liability.
- *Abides by the National CASA Code of Ethics
- *Respects the right to privacy by keeping confidential any information that would identify parties involved in CASA cases.