



Advocates for Children CASA Continuing Education FAQ

What is Continuing Education, and what Requirements do I need to fulfill?

The purpose of continuing education is to ensure that volunteers stay educated and informed on issues within the juvenile dependency system, or specific areas of interest that relate to your individual case, or your work as a CASA Volunteer or Mentor. Continuing Education hours are required for all CASA Volunteers, Truancy Volunteers, and Legacy Mentors every fiscal year.

When do my Continuing Education hours begin?

National CASA requires that all volunteers complete a minimum of 12 hours of on-going training from **July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020**. This will be broken down to 1 hour every month, for a total of 12 hours for the fiscal year.

The number of in-service training hours required for newly trained volunteers will be adjusted (or prorated) dependent on the time of year the volunteer is trained.

What counts for continuing education hours?

Books, movies, documentaries, podcasts, conferences/seminars related to the child welfare system. Topics can include abuse, adoption, advocacy, communication, cultural competency/diversity, education, foster care, neglect, mental health, trauma, working with older youth, etc. You can find a variety of resources on our webpage for suggestions of what will be approved for continuing education hours. If you have any questions regarding what can be approved as hours, please reach out to Training & Recruitment Manager Rachel Leins.

Advocates for Children CASA offers **in-service trainings** at our CASA office. We encourage current volunteers who went through new volunteer training before 2018 to come see our new trainings on *Advocating w/ Awareness, Trauma-Informed Advocacy*, or updated *Court Report Writing*. Refresher trainings for all volunteers are also offered on *Optima, Domestic Violence, Suicide Prevention, Educational Advocacy, Department of Human Services, or Perspective from the Professionals* during our new volunteer trainings every other month.

Outside professionals are brought in to speak on topics relating to volunteer's cases. This includes human trafficking, trauma and resiliency, self-care/mindfulness, etc. These will be posted in our monthly newsletter with upcoming dates/times. You can also find this information on our continuing education webpage at www.adv4children.org/continuing-education/.



Where can I find continuing education training opportunities?

You can find an updated list of different ways to complete your continuing education hours on our webpage at www.adv4children.org/continuing-education/. Please be sure to check your email for our monthly newsletter from Advocates for Children CASA or correspondence from your case coordinator for updated in-service trainings and events that may be happening soon.

How do I show that I completed my continuing education hours?

All continuing education hours must be entered into Optima in the **TRAINING LOGS** (not contact logs) section with a short reflection response. Please refer to our continuing education webpage with guidelines on what needs to be answered in your reflection response, and guidelines on how to enter this into Optima.

Do I have to provide verification of time spent on Continuing Education?

Yes, we have to be able to show current donors as well as auditors that our volunteers are completing all of the requirements set forth by National CASA.

How much credit will be given per continuing education opportunity?

Books: 100 pages = 1 hour of continuing education.

Movies/Documentaries: 1 hour of video = 1 hour of continuing education.

Podcast: 1 hour of podcast = 1 hour of continuing education.

In-Service trainings: 1 hour presentation = 1 hour continuing education.

If I attend trainings over the 12 hours mandated, can they be “rolled over” for the next year?

No. According to National CASA Standard 7.C.2. “The training consists of at least 30 hours of required pre-service training and 12 hours of required in-service training per year”.

What happens if I don’t complete my 12 hours of continuing education?

Without the completion of 1 hour a month for 12 hours of continuing education every fiscal year, volunteers are out of compliance with National CASA standards, and Advocates for Children CASA volunteer role requirements. If hours are not completed, the Program and Executive Director can recommend termination from your case, and the program.

If I have questions about Continuing Education, who should I contact?

Please contact Training & Recruitment Manager, Rachel Leins, at Rachel_Leins@adv4children.org or 303-328-2347.