

COURT-APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE ACT (EXCERPT)
Act 124 of 2024

722.2006 Minimum qualifications; CASA volunteer; background checks.

Sec. 6. (1) A prospective CASA volunteer must meet all of the following minimum requirements:

- (a) Be at least 21 years of age.
- (b) Complete an application.
- (c) Sign a release of information form or submit the required information necessary for the background check under subsection (2).
- (d) Participate in required screening interviews.
- (e) Be willing to commit to the court for the duration of the CASA case until permanency has been established for the CASA child.
- (f) Participate in the training required under section 5.

(2) The program director must conduct a background check on each prospective CASA volunteer before the prospective CASA volunteer is assigned an initial CASA case and every 2 years after the initial background check under this subsection. A background check conducted under this subsection includes all of the following:

- (a) A criminal history background check using the department of state police's internet criminal history access tool (ICHAT) or an equivalent check on that individual from the state or province of residence.
 - (b) Criminal background check through the Federal Bureau of Investigation or other national crime database.
 - (c) A national and state offender registry check.
 - (d) A child abuse and neglect central registry check in this state and each state of residence for the previous 5 years, where permissible by law.
 - (e) A Social Security number trace that shows aliases, additional names, and former addresses.
- (3) A prospective CASA volunteer who refuses to comply with subsection (1)(c) will be ineligible to be a CASA volunteer.

(4) If a background check conducted under subsection (2) shows that a CASA volunteer or prospective CASA volunteer has been convicted of or has charges pending for a misdemeanor or felony involving a sex offense, child abuse or neglect, or related crimes that pose or would pose a risk to a child or affect the credibility of the CASA program, any of the following apply:

- (a) The CASA volunteer will be dismissed.
- (b) The application of the prospective CASA volunteer will not be accepted, and the CASA volunteer will be considered ineligible to participate in the program.

History: 2024, Act 124, Imd. Eff. Oct. 3, 2024.