

Monitoring Responsibilities

As a CASA volunteer, it's important that you remain actively involved in a case until the case closes with the child in a safe, permanent home. One of your most important duties is to monitor your case—to check regularly on how things are going. You monitor and check on things every day in your personal life. You can apply the same successful monitoring methods and tools from your daily life to the monitoring of your CASA volunteer cases.

It is sometimes difficult to maintain the momentum that exists when you are first assigned to a case. Partnering with program staff can help you remain involved and inspired to advocate effectively throughout the life of the case.

As a CASA volunteer, your monitoring responsibilities include the following:

1. Conduct follow-up investigations to ensure that court orders are being properly executed:
 - Review the court orders.
 - Visit the child regularly and maintain sufficient contact with parents, relatives, foster parents, and agency personnel to determine if court orders are being properly executed.
 - Verify accuracy of information gained during follow-up investigation.
 - Notify staff and the attorney for the child if the orders of the court are not being properly executed.
 - Contact those who are responsible for carrying out court orders to address noncompliance.
 - Prepare for each hearing by writing reports on case plan progress and compliance with court orders.
2. Report to the court when the needs of the child are not being met:
 - Identify facts and changes in situation that may necessitate the case's return to court.
3. Protect and promote the best interest of the child until formally relieved of the responsibility by the court:
 - Regularly monitor the child in his/her home setting to evaluate appropriateness of placement, determine whether the child is receiving court-ordered services, and identify any unmet needs.

- Determine if additional services are needed for the child.
- Identify facts and changes in the situation that may necessitate the case's return to court.

Adapted from the North Carolina Guardian ad Litem volunteer training curriculum.

Volunteer Training Curriculum, The National CASA Association