

December 2023



Advocating for the protection of Iowa's children and improvement of the child welfare system.

Stay Up to Date

Social Media Reminders for Volunteers



Social media is a great place to connect with others, but it is important to use it responsibly and professionally as a CASA or FCRB member!

Here are a few tips for managing social media from the lens of a CASA volunteer or FCRB member:

- ICAB volunteers shall not be “friends” with or “connected” on social media platforms to the children and families to which they are appointed. If you receive a friend request from a parent or youth you advocate for, please gently explain that you’re unable to accept their request at this time because of your objective volunteer role.
- Be aware that social media algorithms may use the contacts in your current friend list or mobile phone to make “suggestions” for new connections. You might be a suggested friend for a parent or youth or that individual might be suggested to you simply because you have their name and phone number saved to your mobile device.
- Understand the privacy setting on your accounts. If you choose to make your accounts viewable to the general public, please know any of that content such as images or posts you’ve shared from others can be seen by anyone, including individuals on your CASA or FCRB cases.
- If you choose to post about your CASA or FCRB advocacy, please remember no case-related information or circumstances can be shared. Instead, give yourself kudos for this challenging, yet rewarding work and ask others to join you in our mission.

If you have questions, please refer to your volunteer program’s Social Media policy.

Resources

Friends of Iowa CASA and ICFCRB

The second annual Friends of Iowa CASA and ICFCRB year-end appeal kicked off September 18, and our generous donors are already making sure 2024 is bright for Iowa's children! As we approach the season of hope and light, the end of the year is a prime time to reflect on the good work CASA and FCRB volunteers have done in their communities in 2023, and how we can all work together to change a child's story in 2024. To make a gift today or any time before the end of the year, please [click here](#).

Save the date! Friends of Iowa CASA and ICFCRB is partnering with Kendra Scott Jewelry Store again this December for their two-day giveback event. On December 15-16, Friends will receive 20 percent of the sales made at the Jordan Creek Kendra Scott store in-person and online with a special online code. Finish your holiday shopping while supporting CASA and foster care review board! Can't make it in-person? Shop online at [kendrascott.com](https://www.kendrascott.com) and use this code either day to participate: GIVEBACK-FILWB.

In 2024, Friends of Iowa CASA and ICFCRB will host a monthly Coffee + Chat for CASA and foster care review board volunteers. This virtual meeting over the lunch hour provides volunteers with more information about the Friends organization and how Friends can support volunteers in their communities and achieve the shared goal of changing a child's story. The first Coffee + Chat will be on January 18 from 12:00-1:00 p.m. focused on the Quad Cities area (note: volunteers from across Iowa are welcome to join, but the discussions may be regionally specific). Volunteers may join using this link: meet.google.com/qsh-yfqr-xpv.

Trainer's Corner

For FCRB Members & CASA Advocates: 2024 Iowa Child Advocacy Board Speaker Series

We are excited to share with you our plans for the 2024 Speaker Series offered as training opportunities to support your continuous learning journey within our organization. Join us as we gather together virtually in learning!

Understanding QRTPs Presented by Kristen Konchalsk, HHS. CASAs will learn about Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTP) placements in Iowa, what to expect for youth placed in the programs, and the changes implemented July 1, 2023. Join us on January 18 from 12:00 to 1:00 pm. [Click here to register!](#) As this session will be recorded, please only register to attend the live session.

Understanding Safety and Risk in Iowa Child Welfare System Sara Buis, Linda Dettmann, & Roxanne Riesberg from HHS will assist CASA volunteers in learning about definitions of safety and risk and how current practice is impacted by the understanding of each term for families being served by the child welfare system. Join us on March 5 from 12:00 to 1:00 pm. [Click here to register!](#) As this session will be recorded, please only register to attend the live session.

For CASA Advocates: If you would like a specific list of training options unique to your role or specific to your assigned case issues, contact your local coordinator or the State Trainer at lesa.christianson@dia.iowa.gov.

Years of Service and New Volunteers

December Anniversaries

Kerry Quillin Brennan, Program Coordinator for CASA of Northeast Iowa, 13 years

Margaret Campbell, Program Coordinator for Cedar Valley CASA of Iowa, 5 years

Welcome New Volunteers!

Maryann Farrell, CASA

Janet Flanagan, CASA

Molly Noon, CASA

Lynn Schulte, FCRB

Shannon Sherwood, CASA

Marty Shudak, CASA

Abigail Tesch, FCRB



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