

Sample Young Adult Motion to Request the Appointment of a CASA Volunteer

For young adults in the Bridge to Independence Program pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 43-4510(2)

PURPOSE:

In the Bridge to Independence program, you can give consent for the court (e.g. the judge) to appoint a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) volunteer to help with your case, if one is available. With your consent, the court can also continue the appointment of a CASA volunteer, so if you had a CASA volunteer while you were in the under 19 foster care system, that volunteer may be able to continue working on your case in the Bridge to Independence program.

A CASA volunteer is a person who volunteers to help you in court. They are not paid employees; they are volunteering their time to help young people who are in your situation. **CASA volunteers will also meet with you regularly outside of court to check in and see if you need any help and to just talk with you to find out how you are doing.** CASA volunteers work with one or two children or young people at a time, unlike attorneys or caseworkers, so you will likely be the only young person they are assigned. They may not always agree with you on what is best for you, but they are trained to help you make decisions and find resources that can help you.

Benefits to having a CASA volunteer assigned to your case could include:

- CASA volunteers will report to the judge and can speak up for you in permanency hearings and case reviews
- CASA volunteers know about resources for you and can help you find the services you need
- CASA volunteers will also advocate to the judge to help get you the services you need
- CASA volunteers are not being paid; they are only involved because they want to help you

Young adults can also ask for an attorney to represent them in court by filling out a *Young Adult Motion to Request an Attorney* form, available at neappleseed.org/B2I. While a CASA volunteer may not be available to help with your case right away, young adults can request an attorney at any time.

INSTRUCTIONS:

To ask that a CASA volunteer be assigned to help you, if one is available, you will need to fill out the attached form as best you can and get it to the judge assigned to your case. You can either take the form to the courthouse yourself or mail it to your judge. Make sure you put your judge's name on the envelope so it gets to the right person!

IN THE SEPARATE JUVENILE COURT/COUNTY COURT OF ____ COUNTY, NEBRASKA

)	
)	Doc. No.
)	
_____, YOUNG ADULT)	MOTION TO REQUEST
(First, last name of young adult))	THE APPOINTMENT OF A
)	CASA VOLUNTEER
)	
)	

I, the Young Adult, request that the Court appoint a CASA volunteer in the above-captioned case pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 43-4510(2).

I would like for my old CASA volunteer's appointment to be continued in my young adult case.

Yes No

Any additional information (optional):

Date: _____

Signature of Young Adult

Name of Young Adult

Age: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____