

# CASA

STAND UP TO SILENCE



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## Media Kit

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# About CASA

## Our Mission:

Challenging the Societal Acceptance of all Forms of Domestic Violence, CASA Stands up to Silence through Advocacy, Prevention, Intervention, and Support Services.

## Our Vision:

A Society Free from Domestic Violence.

## Services:

CASA provides free & confidential services to adults, children, and pets affected by domestic violence.

### Prevention

At CASA, we believe in stopping domestic violence before it starts. Our prevention efforts include:

- Childhood anti-violence curriculum, Peacemakers
- Adult education
- Information and Referrals
- Community Conversations

### Emergency

- CASA has one of the largest emergency domestic violence shelters in the state
- Through CASA's 24-hour emergency hotline, survivors can access emergency services such as:
  - crisis counseling
  - youth support
  - basic needs such as food, clothing, transportation, and financial assistance
- CASA's Injunction for Protection Attorney Team helps survivors find legal freedom from their abusers



### Restorative

The support survivors need doesn't end when the immediate crisis is over. We offer a host of restorative programs to ensure survivors can continue on their path of safety and healing.

- Housing support
- Family support
- Individual advocacy
- Ongoing case management
- Support groups
- Mental health support

## FY 2019-20 Stats

# 573

*Adults & Children  
Served through  
Emergency Shelter*

# 4,025

*Calls Answered through  
CASA's 24-hour  
Emergency Hotline*

# 493

*Clients served through  
CASA's Injunction for  
Protection Attorney  
Program*

# 1,182

*Adults Served through  
Non-Residential Support  
Services*

# 645

*Justice Advocacy  
Sessions Provided at  
Pinellas County  
Courthouses*

# Logo

Hi-res logos available [here](#)



# Brochures

program brochures available [here](#)

**Advocates can provide the following services:**

- One-on-one confidential support
- Crisis Counseling
- Safety Planning
- lethality Assessment
- Support Groups
- Help Navigating the Criminal Justice System
- Accompaniment to Court
- Assistance Filing and Enforcement
- Victim Rights Information and Advocacy
- Safety Call Phone Program
- Teen Dating Violence Assistance (with parent or guardian consent)
- Access to Mental Health Resources for children & families who have been exposed to domestic violence
- Victim Compensation Application Assistance
- Rapid Response Program Referral
- Assistance to Injunction for Protection Program Florida Bar Attorney
- Domestic Violence Restraining Assistance\*
- Address Confidentiality Assistance\*

\*Only certified Domestic Violence Center Advocates can assist with a Domestic Violence Restraining Application and the Address Confidentiality Program

**Did you know?**

According to Florida Statute 769.01(1)(3), if you or a household member is the victim of domestic violence your employer must allow you to take up to 3 working days of leave in a 12-month period.

\*You must be employed for at least 3 months and your employer must employ 50 or more employees for this law to apply.

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**About CASA**

CASA is a Certified Domestic Violence Center located in Pinellas County. For over 40 years our dedicated team of experts have provided the most comprehensive provision of services to protect and empower survivors of domestic violence.

**Our Mission:**  
Challenging the societal acceptance of all forms of domestic violence, CASA stands up to violence through advocacy, prevention, intervention and support services.

**What is Domestic Violence?**

Domestic violence is used for one purpose: to gain and maintain control. Through acts of verbal harassment, intimidation, isolation, stalking, and physical harm, one person can systematically control another.

For survivors, abuse is a dangerous game with impossible rules. Perpetrators of domestic violence often manipulate current or former intimate partners or other family members through learned behaviors. Verbal, physical, sexual, financial, or emotional - domestic violence is not always a singular action; often it is a series of exploitative tactics that have survivors in an uncomfortable way or prevent them from doing what they want.

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**How Advocates Can Help**

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**CASA JUSTICE ADVOCATES:**

The criminal justice system can be daunting, even for those well-versed in its process. But for victims of domestic violence, navigating the criminal justice system can be traumatic in itself. At CASA, our criminal justice advocates are committed to helping you through criminal and civil court proceedings as well as providing additional free & confidential services. We can assist with the following:

- Crisis Counseling
- Safety Planning
- Assistance with bail setting & case management
- lethality Assessment
- Support Groups
- Support Navigating the Criminal Justice System
  - Accompaniment to Court
  - Assistance Filing and Enforcement
  - Victim Rights Information and Advocacy
  - Safety Call Phone Program
  - Teen Dating Violence Assistance (with parent or guardian consent)
  - Referrals to Mental Health Resources for children & families who have been exposed to domestic violence
  - Victim Compensation Application Assistance
  - Rapid Response Program Referral
  - Domestic Violence Restraining Assistance\*
  - Address Confidentiality Assistance\*

\*Only certified Domestic Violence Center Advocates can assist with a Domestic Violence Restraining Application and the Address Confidentiality Program

Advocating for your legal support services, advocacy, and emergency shelter, CASA may refer survivors seeking civil protection, but guarantee by a free attorney.

**VICTIMS RIGHTS**

As a victim of domestic violence, you have specific rights to the extent of the U.S.A. without our help you understand the following Victim Rights Notice:

- Victim Impact statement (96A.001(1)(1))
- Right to be present and heard (96A.001(1)(2))
- Right to be represented by a victim advocate
- Right to request restitution (96A.001(1)(3))
- Right to request compensation (96A.001(1)(4))
- Domestic violence restraining
- Medical/fatal expenses
- And more

**WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?**

Domestic violence is used for one purpose: to gain and maintain control. Through acts of verbal harassment, intimidation, isolation, stalking and physical harm, one person can systematically control another. For survivors, abuse is a dangerous game with impossible rules. Perpetrators of domestic violence often manipulate current or former intimate partners or other family members through learned behaviors. Verbal, physical, sexual, financial, or emotional - domestic violence is not always a singular action; often it is a series of exploitative tactics that have survivors in an uncomfortable way or prevent them from doing what they want.

**WHAT ARE SOME OF THE WARNING SIGNS?**

- Extreme jealousy
- Isolation and from friends and family
- Blame other for his/her problems, feelings and mistakes
- Constantly monitoring phone, social media and texts
- Possessiveness
- Threats, demands, and/or is continuously abusive

**SOME INDICATORS THAT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COULD TURN DEADLY**

- Stalking
- Jealousy
- Access to weapons, use of or threats to use weapons
- Isolation of supportive circle
- Nothing

**OUR MISSION:**

Challenging the societal acceptance of all forms of domestic violence, CASA stands up to violence through advocacy, prevention, intervention and support services.

**CONTACT CASA FOR INFORMATION TODAY!**  
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**CASA**  
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**A Domestic Violence Survivor's Guide to Navigating the Criminal Justice System**

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**CASA**

**Injunction for Protection**

System for Victims in Pinellas County

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# Brand Video

Brand video available [here](#)

Domestic Violence & Children video available [here](#)

# Social Media

@casastpete  
#StandUpToSilence  
#CallItWhatItis





# Lariana Forsythe, CASA CEO

Lariana Forsythe joined CASA as its CEO in June of 2017, relocating to the Pinellas County area. She has more than 20 years of nonprofit experience with the Boys & Girls Clubs, National Multiple Sclerosis Society and Special Olympics. Ms. Forsythe has held a variety of roles within these organizations, most recently serving as the VP/CDO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Phoenix.

Ms. Forsythe earned a Master's Degree in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix on scholarship while a full-time, single mom, a Bachelor of Science from Arizona State University, and is a Certified Fund Raising Executive.

She was named Business Woman of the Year in 2018 by the Tampa Bay Business Journal, and currently serves as a board member for the Pinellas County Homeless Leadership Board and Generations for the Arts. Lariana is also a member the St. Anthony's Hospital's Mission Integration and Community Affairs Committee and serves as a 2019 SPCA Tampa Bay Ambassador.