



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.

- Emergency shelter
- 24-hour emergency hotline
- One-on-one confidential support
- Crisis counseling
- Safety planning
- Lethality assessment
- Support groups
- Help navigating the Criminal Justice system
- Teen dating violence assistance (with parent or guardian consent)
- Access to mental health resources for children & families who have been exposed to domestic violence
- Rapid Rehousing program referral
- Injunction for Protection attorneys
- Prevention education for adults & children
- Child welfare advocates
- Youth advocates and childcare
- Medical services
- Criminal & civil legal services

FY 2022-23 Stats

554

Adults & Children Served
through Emergency
Shelter

7,510

Calls Answered through
CASA's 24-hour
Emergency Hotline

1,580

Justice Advocacy sessions
provided at Pinellas
County Courthouses

1,156

Adults and children
served at CASA's Family
Justice Center

23,044

Bed nights provided for
survivors in CASA's
Emergency Shelter

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
- Connection to Inspection for Protection Project Florida Bar Attorney
- Domestic Violence Relocation Assistance*
- Address Confidentiality Assistance*

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

Did you know?

According to Florida Statute 1827.41(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.

CASA
STAND UP TO SILENCE

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 silence 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 humiliation, 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 force survivors to act in undesirable ways or prevent them from doing what they want.

CASA
How Advocates Can Help

www.casapinellas.org
727.895.4912 | TTY: 727.828.1269
info@casapinellas.org
P.O. Box 414, St. Petersburg, FL 33731

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727.895.4912 | TTY: 727.828.1269

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
- Assistance with good 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 Relocation Assistance*
- Address Confidentiality Assistance*

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VICTIMS RIGHTS

In a civil case of domestic violence, you have specific rights in a court of law. CASA advocates can help you understand the following Victim Rights:

- Victim Impact Statement §969.001(1)(A)
- Right to be present and heard §969.001(1)(B)
- Right to be accompanied by a victim advocate
- Right to request a restraining order §969.001(1)(C)
- Right to apply for victim compensation §969.001(1)(D)
- Domestic violence relocation
- Medical and dental expenses
- Lost wages

WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

Domestic violence is used for one purpose: to gain and maintain control. Through acts of verbal humiliation, 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 force survivors to act in undesirable ways or prevent them from doing what they want.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE WARNING SIGNS?

- Extreme jealousy
- Intimidate and threaten you and family
- Blame others for their problems, behavior, & mistakes
- Frequently accuse you of physical, sexual, and verbal abuse
- Possessiveness
- Threats, demands, and/or systematically abusive behavior
- Some indicators that domestic violence could turn deadly
- Jealousy
- Threats to kill
- Access to weapons, use of or threats to use weapons
- Violation of protective order
- Hoarding

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CONTACT CASA FOR INFORMATION TODAY!
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CASA
STAND UP TO SILENCE

CASA
A Domestic Violence Survivor's Guide to Navigating the Criminal Justice System

www.casapinellas.org
727.895.4912 | TTY: 727.828.1269

CASA

Injunction for Protection

Systems for Victims in Pinellas County

****Legal representation at NO Cost to the Survivor****

www.casapinellas.org
727.895.4912

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Brand Videos

Brand videos available **here**.

Domestic Violence & Children video available **here**.

Social Media

@CASAPinellas
#StandUpToSilence





Lariana Forsythe, CASA CEO

Lariana Forsythe joined Community Action Stops Abuse – or CASA-- as its CEO in 2017. With more than 20 years of nonprofit experience with the Boys & Girls Clubs, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, and Special Olympics, 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 (CFRE).

The Tampa Bay Business Journal named Ms. Forsythe Business Woman of the Year in 2018. Ms. Forsythe currently serves as a board member for the Pinellas County Homeless Leadership Board as well as a member of the St. Anthony's Hospital's Mission Integration and Community Affairs Committee.

With Ms. Forsythe's leadership, CASA has received various national and local accolades for its innovative services and program launches. In 2021, CASA began serving as the provider of domestic violence training and technical assistance for the State of Florida.

In 2022 CASA opened Florida's only Family Justice Center and in 2023 was awarded the prestigious Purple Ribbon Award for best new domestic violence service launch for the CASA Family Justice Center in the United States.

In 2024 CASA expanded its physical footprint in Pinellas County, opening a satellite office providing housing, advocacy, and injunction for protection legal services in Clearwater.

Also in 2024, CASA expanded outside of Pinellas County with the formation of CASA Marion, LLC, and now serves as the certified domestic violence organization for Marion County in addition to Pinellas County.