Cass Elias McCarter
Your Voice.
A Child's Future.
Guardian ad Litem Program

"I became a Guardian after adopting my son. During that process, he had a private guardian who was his representative in court for those proceedings. That perked my interest in the role of a Guardian and what they do. I began to look on the internet and found the national organization (CASA). They had a link to Charleston's program and it linked me to Dorchester County. I filled out the application and went through the interview and training procedure to become a Guardian.

I've been a volunteer for about two years now and have had a total of five cases. I think training prepared me well. The information that we covered definitely helped me to prepare my court reports and deal with situations I encounter in my cases.

I have never been concerned for my safety but I'm always diligent about my surroundings in particular areas I go in. If it is an area of concern, I'm just more aware of what is occurring around me.

The most challenging and fearful part of a Guardian is trying to do the right thing and making sure that what you are doing is in the best interest of the child. You have to be confident in the position that you are taking and that what you are recommending is in the best interest of the child.

It's hard not to get attached to kids in your case. You try to advocate for them just like it's your child. Those are hard emotions to try to separate. That is one of the most difficult things to keep in perspective.

Most people react positively to the type of work you do as an advocate. A lot of them inquire about how they can become involved in the process.

Volunteering is a benefit to the community. You represent kids who otherwise would not have a voice, so you are essential. I think that's an overall benefit.

I find this to be a very rewarding experience and I've enjoyed doing this type of work. "

Omar Muhammad
Dorchester Volunteer Guardian ad Litem

"Volunteering is a benefit to the community. You represent kids who otherwise would not have a voice, so you are essential. I think that's an overall benefit."

MEMBER
NATIONAL CASA ASSOCIATION