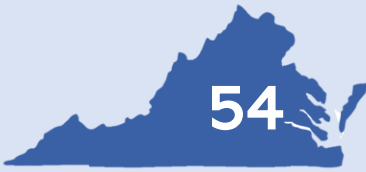


# Child Abuse and Advocacy in Virginia



In Virginia during State Fiscal Year 2022, 54 child deaths were the result of abuse or neglect.

In **2022**, Virginia's sexual and domestic violence programs provided:

- **10,007** hours of sexual assault advocacy services to **1,631** child victims
- **38,529** hours of domestic violence advocacy services and **2,569** nights of emergency shelter to **5,272** children



## Children's Advocacy Centers in Virginia

In FY2023, Virginia's 19 Children's Advocacy Centers (CAC) and five satellite offices provided trauma-informed, child-centered services to children in **7,344** new cases.

Of these children served:



- 54%** were child abuse cases
- 17%** were physical abuse cases
- 12%** were physical neglect cases
- 7%** were witnesses to violence cases
- 8%** were other types of cases

# 66%

Of the children served by the CACs in Virginia in FY2023 were 12 years old or younger.

The Court Appointed Special Advocate Program (CASA) recruits, screens, trains, and supervises citizen volunteers to provide best-interest advocacy for children involved in the juvenile court system as a result of abuse and neglect.

## CASA Programs in Virginia Statistics for FY2023:



**27**  
operational programs in Virginia.



**3,233**  
children received advocacy.



**1,325**  
citizen volunteers active on cases.



**124,669**  
volunteer hours were contributed.



**86%**  
of CASA volunteer recommendations were accepted and incorporated into judicial court orders.

# Child Abuse and Advocacy in Virginia – Resources

The Virginia Crime Victim and Witness Rights Act (§ 19.2-11.01.) allows for some child victims and child witnesses of certain sexual offenses to testify in court remotely using two-way, closed-circuit television.

To testify through the closed-circuit television:

- Victims must have been 14 years or younger at the time of the offense and 16 or younger at the time of the trial.
- Witnesses must be 14 years or younger at the time of the trial.

To learn more about this program, you may contact the Virginia State Police Technical Unit at **(804) 674-2517**.

The Virginia Victims Fund provides financial assistance for certain out-of-pocket expenses to victims of violent crime.



**1 (800) 552-4007**

[www.virginiavictimsfund.org](http://www.virginiavictimsfund.org)

The Virginia Victim Assistance Network helps victims understand their rights and the criminal justice process.



**Victim Assist Helpline**

**1 (855)-4-HELP-VA**

[www.vanetwork.org](http://www.vanetwork.org)

The Virginia Department of Social Services offers training and resources for individuals who are mandated reporters of suspected child abuse and neglect.



[www.dss.virginia.gov/abuse/mr.cgi](http://www.dss.virginia.gov/abuse/mr.cgi)

The Virginia Sexual & Domestic Violence Action Alliance offers a 24-hour hotline for those affected by sexual assault and domestic violence.



**1 (800) 838-8238**

[vsdvalliance.org](http://vsdvalliance.org)

To learn more about Virginia's Court Appointed Special Advocate Program for Children (CASA), please visit them online at [virginiacasa.org](http://virginiacasa.org).



To learn more about Children's Advocacy Centers in Virginia and access resources and training opportunities, please visit [cacva.org](http://cacva.org).

