



Dear Prospective Volunteer,

Thank you for your interest in becoming an advocate with Big Country CASA! Below you will find an application to become a CASA volunteer. After your completed application is received at our office, you will be contacted by telephone to schedule a pre-training interview. Your interview and acceptance into the training program must be completed before you can begin training. Applications can be mailed, emailed or faxed to:

Big Country CASA
400 Oak Street, Suite 217
Abilene, TX 79602

If you have additional questions, please call 325-677-6448. Again, thanks for your interest. We look forward to your involvement with Big Country CASA.

Angela Sharp
Executive Director
Big Country CASA

“THERE IS A CHILD WHO NEEDS YOUR VOICE”

Big Country CASA
400 Oak Street, Suite 217
Abilene, TX 79602
Phone 325.677.6448
Fax 325.704.5176

VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

Date _____

Name _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ County _____

Home Phone # _____ Fax # _____

Work Phone # _____ Cell Phone # _____

Email address: _____

Social Security #: _____ Driver's License #: _____ State: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Place of Birth: _____ Height: _____

Weight: _____ Hair Color: _____ Eye Color _____ Sex: F ___ M ___

Employer: _____ Job Title: _____

Employer's address: _____

Where did you hear about Big Country CASA program? _____

Current hobbies and / or interests: _____

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

List your last three places of employment (beginning with your present employer)

NAME OF COMPANY & PHONE #	POSITION	SUPERVISOR	EMPLOYMENT DATES TO / FROM	REASON FOR LEAVING

Employment Status: Full Time Part Time: Hours per week _____
 Retired Other _____

Can we contact you at work? _____

EDUCATION

Circle *highest* completed:

High school: 9 10 11 12

College: 1 2 3 4

Graduate: 1 2 3 4

Major: _____

Degree _____

Currently enrolled in School? _____

Part or Full Time _____

Exp. Grad. Date? _____

LANGUAGE

Please indicate in which languages you can communicate:

- English Spanish Chinese Portugese
 Japanese Tagalog Vietnamese Other _____

PERSONAL

Do you have any personal or professional experience with counseling or therapy?

Yes _____ No _____ If yes, please elaborate: _____

List any community groups in which you are presently active (professional associations, faith communities, service organizations, etc):

Do you have any experience working with children? Yes _____ No _____

(If yes, please give organization names and details)

Do you give Big Country CASA permission to obtain information from these organizations regarding your membership?

Yes ___ No ___ If no, please explain _____

Have you or your family had personal/ professional experience with: (If yes, please give a brief explanation)

Child abuse Yes ___ No ___ _____

Foster care Yes ___ No ___ _____

Juvenile court system Yes ___ No ___ _____

Child Protective Services Yes ___ No ___ _____

Other child service agencies Yes ___ No ___ _____

Have you ever applied with another organization that works with children? Yes ___ No ___

Were you accepted? Yes ___ No ___ Please give name(s) of organization(s) & year:

Have you ever applied to this or another CASA program before? Yes ___ No ___ If yes, explain:

Current Marital Status: Single Married: Date _____ Separated: Date _____
 Committed Relationship Widowed: Date _____

If married/committed: Spouse/Partner's Name _____ Age _____

Spouse's Employment and Position _____

Emergency Contact _____ Phone Number _____

Please answer the following questions and give details and explanations if answer is yes:

Have you ever been hospitalized for an emotional issue? Yes ___ No ___

Have you ever used illegal drugs? If yes, please explain. Yes ___ No ___

Have you ever abused legal drugs or alcohol? If yes, please explain. Yes ___ No ___

Details

CRIMINAL HISTORY

Big Country CASA will ask all volunteers to complete a criminal records check, which will reveal any arrest, charge or conviction. Please respond to the following questions so that this history can be discussed and evaluated.

If you answer yes to any of the following questions, please offer an explanation in the space provided below

- Have you or your family ever been involved in a legal action? Yes ____ No ____
- Have you ever been arrested or charged with a misdemeanor? Yes ____ No ____
- Have you ever been convicted of a misdemeanor? Yes ____ No ____
- Have you ever been arrested or charged with a felony? Yes ____ No ____
- Have you ever been convicted of a felony? Yes ____ No ____
- Have you ever been or are you currently on parole? Yes ____ No ____
- Have you ever been convicted of a traffic violation? Yes ____ No ____
- Have you ever had any DUI arrests, charges, or convictions? Yes ____ No ____
- Have you ever had your driver’s license revoked or suspended? Yes ____ No ____
- Have you ever been arrested or charged or with any sexual misconduct (including pornography)? Yes ____ No ____
- Have you ever been convicted of any sexual misconduct (including pornography)? Yes ____ No ____

Details

The following questions are for statistical purposes only. Please mark the choice or choices that best describe you.

- Ethnic Origin:**
- Native American
 - Caucasian
 - Not known
 - Hispanic/Latino
 - Bi-racial/Multi-racial
 - Other _____
 - African American/African
 - Asian/Pacific Islander
 - Decline to State

Please provide COMPLETE contact information for five non-family references that have known you for at least one year.

Please do not list a relative, significant other, or two people from the same household. Big Country CASA will send an email correspondence with a description of the CASA program and reference form for them to complete and return. CASA will contact three of your references and will only contact the remaining two if the first three cannot respond to our inquiries.

(1) Name _____ **Phone** _____

Email _____

Address
(if email address not available) _____

Relationship to you _____

(2) Name _____ **Phone** _____

Email _____

Address
(if email address not available) _____

Relationship to you _____

(3) Name _____ **Phone** _____

Email _____

Address
(if email address not available) _____

Relationship to you _____

(4) Name _____ **Phone** _____

Email _____

Address
(if email address not available) _____

Relationship to you _____

(5) Name _____ **Phone** _____

Email _____

Address
(if email address not available) _____

Relationship to you _____

Please respond to the following:

I am interested in working with children and families as a CASA volunteer because...

I feel that I can be a fair and objective advocate for a child because...

Any hesitations or concerns regarding my participation in the CASA program at this point are...

When would you like to begin CASA Volunteer Training?

CASA volunteers give 15-20 hours a month. When would you fit this time into your schedule?

Big Country CASA Training Agreement

Prospective volunteers are asked to read and sign the following training description and agreement:

Description:

The initial training consists of 35 hours broken down into 15 hours of classroom time, 15 hours of online time, and 5 hours of courtroom observations. The classroom time is comprised of 5 classroom sessions lasting 3 hours each. There is a requirement of 12 annual training hours each year after initial training.

Agreement:

1. I understand that participation in the Pre-Service Volunteer Training is required and essential, and includes 15 hours of online time and 15 hours of scheduled classroom time.
2. I understand that, in addition to the classroom sessions, I will be required to complete 5 hours of courtroom observation at the Taylor County Courthouse.
3. I understand attendance and punctuality are required.
4. I am aware that the Pre-Service Training is a part of the screening process, and acceptance to participate in training does not guarantee that I will be sworn in as a CASA or that I will be assigned to a case. I further understand that either I or CASA can choose to discontinue my involvement in the training/screening process at any time without further obligation for either party.
5. Upon completion of Training, my participation in the training process, as well as other screening material e.g., criminal record check and references will be reviewed for the purpose of determining my eligibility to be assigned a case as a CASA.

I understand and agree to meet all conditions stated above and I wish to participate in the Big Country CASA training program.

Signature

Date

The Undersigned acknowledges and agrees that:

I am interested in becoming a CASA volunteer, and know of no reasons why I should not be assigned to a child in the CASA program. I am aware that the children CASA serves have been abused, neglected, or abandoned by adults. I do not want to be another cause of disappointment to a child, and acknowledge that I will make a commitment of at least eighteen months.

As a CASA volunteer I will be willing to: (Please write yes or no)

Commit a minimum of 18 months to being a CASA volunteer.

Participate in CASA's volunteer training program.

Participate in further training as offered to active volunteers in the program.

Visit in person monthly with the child(ren) to which I may be assigned.

Prepare written reports to the court with the guidance and assistance of CASA.

Participate and attend court hearings and meetings on a child's case.

I understand that I will need to carry liability insurance on my car. I agree to maintain this minimum liability insurance throughout my program participation with CASA. I understand that I may transport a child during the course of my CASA duties, and must maintain proof of active liability insurance and current driver's license in my CASA file. Yes _____ No _____

I attached proof of car insurance to this application.

Yes _____ No _____

As an applicant to Big Country CASA I understand and acknowledge that:

Big Country CASA is not obligated in any way to accept me into the volunteer training program by submission of this application.

Big Country CASA retains the right to refuse any individual they feel would not be in the best interest of the program and CASA is not required to state reasons for non-acceptance into the program.

Big Country CASA will hold all information in the volunteer's file in strictest confidence. Such information becomes the property of Big Country CASA.

I authorize Big Country CASA to conduct all background checks necessary to insure the safety and suitability of all program clients and participants including the request of a criminal record check by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I agree that the results of all background checks will be sent directly to the office of Big Country CASA.

I give permission to Big Country CASA to release information about my application, acceptance, and/or participation in this program to any other CASA program to which I may apply in the future.

I have truthfully responded to all of the questions on this application.

Signature

Date