



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.

Rebel Taylor
Advocate Coordinator
Big Country CASA
rebeltaylor@bigcountrycasa.org

“THERE IS A CHILD WHO NEEDS YOUR VOICE”

“Our CASAs help our children learn to dream again.”
Honorable Paul Rotenberry
326th District Court

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



BIG COUNTRY CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocates For Children

VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

Date _____

Full Name _____

Other Name Used (Maiden/ Married) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: TX Zip: _____ County _____

Home Phone # _____ Cell Phone # _____

Work Phone # _____

Email address: _____

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

Date of Birth: _____ City & State of Birth: _____ Height: _____

Weight: _____ Hair Color: _____ Eye Color _____ Gender 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 TO / FROM	REASON FOR LEAVING

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

May we contact you at work? _____

EDUCATION

Select *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 Portuguese
 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 for a traffic violation (NOT Just a TICKET) 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:**
- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Native American | <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/Latino | <input type="checkbox"/> African American/African |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caucasian | <input type="checkbox"/> Bi-racial/Multi-racial | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Pacific Islander |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not known | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Decline to State |

Please provide **COMPLETE** contact information for 5 non-family references that have known you for at least one year. Must have 3 responses for application approval.

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 _____
*PREFER EMAIL _____
Full Address (if email not available) _____
Relationship to you _____

(2) NAME _____ Phone _____
*PREFER EMAIL _____
Full Address (if email not available) _____
Relationship to you _____

(3) NAME _____ Phone _____
*PREFER EMAIL _____
Full Address (if email not available) _____
Relationship to you _____

(4) NAME _____ Phone _____
*PREFER EMAIL _____
Full Address (if email not available) _____
Relationship to you _____

(5) NAME _____ Phone _____
*PREFER EMAIL _____
Full Address (if email 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 I have regarding participation in the CASA program 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 – MUST SIGN BELOW

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 30 hours of classroom time, and 5 hours of courtroom observations. 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 30 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 check yes or no)**

Commit a minimum of 18 months to being a CASA volunteer. Yes _____ No _____

Participate in CASA's volunteer training program. Yes _____ No _____

Participate in further training as offered to active volunteers. Yes _____ No _____

Visit in person monthly with the child(ren) to which I may be assigned. Yes _____ No _____

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

Participate and attend court hearings and meetings on a child's case. Yes _____ No _____

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 must request to transport a child during the course of my CASA duties, and to be approved must maintain proof of active liability insurance and current driver's license in my CASA file.

Yes _____ No _____

I am providing 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

CASA Background Check Form of Consent

First Name: _____ Middle Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Please list ALL previous names (married, maiden...) or aliases used:

REQUIRED for background check. All information is kept confidential and in secure environment according to Texas CASA & Federal regulations:

Social Security Number: _____

Date of Birth: _____

City, State/Country of Birth: _____

Driver's License Number: _____ State: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Current Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

County of Residence: _____

Please list all known physical address for the past 10 years: _____

Auto Insurance Co: _____ Policy #: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Primary Phone Number: _____

Secondary Phone Number: _____

E-mail address: _____

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 background check for CPS history from the Department of Family Protective Services, a FBI criminal history background check, and a driving record background check from the Department of Public Safety. I understand I will also be required to obtain a Digital Fingerprint Background Check. I agree that the results of all background checks will be sent directly to the office of Big Country CASA.

Signature

Date