



## 2019 - 2020 Advocate Training Calendar

### Fall 2019 - September

Monday	Sept 9 <sup>th</sup>	5:45 – 9:00pm
Thursday	Sept 12 <sup>th</sup>	5:45 – 9:00pm
Monday	Sept 16 <sup>th</sup>	5:45 – 9:00pm
Thursday	Sept 19 <sup>th</sup>	5:45 – 9:00pm
Monday	Sept 23 <sup>rd</sup>	5:45 – 9:00pm
Thursday	Sept 26 <sup>th</sup>	5:45 – 9:00pm
Saturday	Sept 28 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am – 3:00pm

### Winter 2020 – January

Monday	Jan 13 <sup>th</sup>	5:45 – 9:00pm
Thursday	Jan 16 <sup>th</sup>	5:45 – 9:00pm
Monday	Jan 23 <sup>rd</sup>	5:45 – 9:00pm
Thursday	Jan 26 <sup>th</sup>	5:45 – 9:00pm
Monday	Jan 30 <sup>th</sup>	5:45 – 9:00pm
Thursday	Feb 2 <sup>nd</sup>	5:45 – 9:00pm
Saturday	Feb 4 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am – 3:00pm

### Spring 2020 – March

Monday	March 16 <sup>th</sup>	5:45 – 9:00pm
Thursday	March 19 <sup>th</sup>	5:45 – 9:00pm
Monday	March 23 <sup>rd</sup>	5:45 – 9:00pm
Thursday	March 26 <sup>th</sup>	5:45 – 9:00pm
Monday	March 30 <sup>th</sup>	5:45 – 9:00pm
Thursday	April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	5:45 – 9:00pm
Saturday	April 4 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am – 3:00pm

## **Summer 2020 – June Daytime Flex Training\***

**Note: Depending on demand - POSSIBLE evening class on same dates**

Tuesday	June 2 <sup>nd</sup>	9:00 – 10:30am (books & instructions)
Thursday	June 4 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am – 12:00pm
Monday	June 8 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am – 12:00pm
Thursday	June 11 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am – 12:00pm
Monday	June 15 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am – 12:00pm
Thursday	June 18 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am – 12:00pm

\*This class is FLEX Online Training: 15 hours classroom, 15 hours home/online

## **Fall 2020 - September**

Monday	Sept 14 <sup>th</sup>	5:45 – 9:00pm
Thursday	Sept 17 <sup>th</sup>	5:45 – 9:00pm
Monday	Sept 21 <sup>st</sup>	5:45 – 9:00pm
Thursday	Sept 24 <sup>th</sup>	5:45 – 9:00pm
Monday	Sept 28 <sup>th</sup>	5:45 – 9:00pm
Thursday	Oct 1 <sup>st</sup>	5:45 – 9:00pm
Saturday	Oct 3 <sup>rd</sup>	9:00am – 3:00pm

A CASA is a Volunteer Advocate, who is at least 21 years of age, has completed the application and screening process, and completed all training and court observations required by the National CASA and Texas CASA guidelines through Big Country CASA.

The Volunteer is then sworn in before the District 326 Family Court Judge and takes an oath of confidentiality. The CASA Volunteer is supervised by Big Country CASA and assigned cases of children who are in foster care with an open case in the Taylor County Court.

A CASA Volunteer is one who respects a child's inherent right to grow up with dignity in a permanent, safe environment that meets that child's needs. A CASA advocates for the child's best interests in the Court during the period of the case assignment and is considered the eyes and ears of the court.

All CASA applicants must pass a background screening process and complete 35 hours of pre-service training which includes 30 hours of classroom training and 5 hours of courtroom observations. All CASA Volunteers must complete 12 hours of continuing education hours offered by Big Country CASA in various ways each calendar year to remain active.

The impact of a CASA in a child's journey through foster care is immeasurable in relation to the emotional security and physical support the consistency of a CASA provides the child.

But the impact of a CASA on the outcome of foster cases is seen in several ways; cases with a CASA are typically resolved quicker and are more likely to have a shorter stay in foster care. They are less likely to be returned to foster care. And usually find a permanent, safe placement quicker than without a CASA.

CASAs typically have one or two cases at a time, which allows them more time to advocate for the best interest of the children which benefits the Attorney at Litem, and the CPS Case Workers. CASAs are just one part of a team working together for the good of the children from our community, and together we are changing the course of their lives.

For more information, please contact Rebel Taylor at Big Country CASA @ 325-677-6448, or visit us at [www.bigcountrycasa.org](http://www.bigcountrycasa.org), or stop by our offices at 400 Oak St, Suite 213, Abilene, TX.

Applications may be done through our website: <https://bigcountrycasa.org/applicationforms/>

