



BIG COUNTRY CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocates For Children

2020 Advocate Training Calendar

Winter 2020 – January

Thursday	Jan 9 th	6:00 – 7:30pm
Monday	Jan 13 th	5:45 – 9:00pm
Thursday	Jan 16 th	5:45 – 9:00pm
Monday	Jan 20 th	5:45 – 9:00pm
Thursday	Jan 23 rd	5:45 – 9:00pm
Monday	Jan 27 th	5:45 – 9:00pm
Thursday	Jan 30 th	5:45 – 9:00pm
Saturday	Feb 1 st	9:00am – 3:00pm

Spring 2020 – February

Thursday	Feb 13 th	6:00 – 7:30pm
Monday	Feb 17 th	5:45 – 9:00pm
Thursday	Feb 20 th	5:45 – 9:00pm
Monday	Feb 24 th	5:45 – 9:00pm
Thursday	Feb 27 th	5:45 – 9:00pm
Saturday	Feb 29 th	9:00am – 3:00pm
Monday	Mar 2 nd	5:45 – 9:00pm
Thursday	Mar 5 th	5:45 – 9:00pm

Summer 2020 – June Daytime Flex Training*

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

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

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

Fall 2020 - September

Thursday	Sept 10 th	6:00 – 7:30pm
Monday	Sept 14 th	5:45 – 9:00pm
Thursday	Sept 17 th	5:45 – 9:00pm
Monday	Sept 21 st	5:45 – 9:00pm
Thursday	Sept 24 th	5:45 – 9:00pm
Monday	Sept 28 th	5:45 – 9:00pm
Thursday	Oct 1 st	5:45 – 9:00pm
Saturday	Oct 3 rd	9:00am – 3:00pm

A CASA is a Volunteer Advocate, who is at least 21 years of age, pass all background checks and complete all training and court observations required by the 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.

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 secure a permanent, safe placement quicker.

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, or stop by our offices at 400 Oak St, Suite 213, Abilene, TX.

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

