



## 2020/21 Advocate Training Calendar

Trainees **must complete EACH** of the classroom trainings for each Session. Individual make up sessions may be granted once per session.

### Fall 2020 Session – September Classroom Trainings

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

### Winter 2021 Session– January Classroom Trainings

Monday	Jan 11 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 – 7:30 pm
Thursday	Jan 14 <sup>th</sup>	5:45 – 9:00 pm
<b>TUESDAY</b>	Jan 19 <sup>th</sup>	5:45 – 9:00 pm
<b>Saturday</b>	Jan 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9:00am – 3:00 pm
Monday	Jan 25 <sup>th</sup>	5:45 – 9:00 pm
Thursday	Jan 28 <sup>th</sup>	5:45 – 9:00 pm
Monday	Feb 1 <sup>st</sup>	5:45 – 9:00 pm
Thursday	Feb 4 <sup>th</sup>	5:45 – 9:00 pm

### Spring 2021 – March Classroom Trainings

Monday	March 15 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 – 7:30 pm
Thursday	March 18 <sup>th</sup>	5:45 – 9:00 pm
Monday	March 22 <sup>nd</sup>	5:45 – 9:00 pm
Thursday	March 25 <sup>th</sup>	5:45 – 9:00 pm
<b>Saturday</b>	March 27 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am – 3:00 pm
Monday	March 29 <sup>th</sup>	5:45 – 9:00 pm
Thursday	April 1 <sup>st</sup>	5:45 – 9:00 pm
Monday	April 5 <sup>th</sup>	5:45 – 9:00 pm

## Summer 2021 – June Flex\* Training

\*This class is FLEX Online Training: 15 hours classroom, 15 hours home/online  
**You must participate in EACH of these classroom sessions as well as completing the online sessions between each virtual classroom session.**

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

Thursday	June 3 <sup>rd</sup>	6 – 7 pm (books & instructions)
Monday	June 7 <sup>th</sup>	6 – 9 pm
Thursday	June 10 <sup>th</sup>	6 – 9 pm
Monday	June 14 <sup>th</sup>	2 – 5 pm (possible evening session too)
Thursday	June 17 <sup>th</sup>	6 – 9 pm
Monday	June 21 <sup>st</sup>	6 – 9 pm

**August 2020 – Possible Flex Training depending on demand.  
Would follow same format as above**

## Fall 2021 Session – September Classroom Trainings

Thursday	Sept 9 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 – 7:30 pm
Monday	Sept 13 <sup>th</sup>	5:45 – 9:00 pm
Thursday	Sept 16 <sup>th</sup>	5:45 – 9:00 pm
Monday	Sept 20 <sup>th</sup>	5:45 – 9:00 pm
Thursday	Sept 23 <sup>rd</sup>	5:45 – 9:00 pm
Monday	Sept 27 <sup>th</sup>	5:45 – 9:00 pm
Thursday	Sept 30 <sup>th</sup>	5:45 – 9:00 pm
<b>Saturday</b>	Oct 2 <sup>nd</sup>	9:00am – 3:00 pm

A CASA is a Volunteer Advocate, who is at least 21 years of age, must 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 Family Court Judge with the oath of confidentiality. The CASA Volunteer is supervised by Big Country CASA and assigned cases of children who are in foster care system in the Taylor County Child Protection 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 tangible impact of a CASA on the outcome on 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 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/>

