



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 th	6:00 – 7:30 pm - Orientation
Monday	Sept 14 th	5:45 – 9:00 pm - Session 1
Thursday	Sept 17 th	5:45 – 9:00 pm - Session 2
Monday	Sept 21 st	5:45 – 9:00 pm - Session 3
Thursday	Sept 24 th	5:45 – 9:00 pm - Session 4
Monday	Sept 28 th	5:45 – 9:00 pm - Session 5
Thursday	Oct 1 st	5:45 – 9:00 pm - Session 6
Saturday	Oct 3 rd	9:00am – 3:00 pm - Session 7 & 8

Winter 2021 Session– January Classroom Trainings

Thursday	Jan 14 th	6:00 – 7:30 pm Orientation
Monday	Jan 18 th	5:45 – 9:00 pm Session 1
Thursday	Jan 21 st	5:45 – 9:00 pm Session 2
Monday	Jan 25 th	5:45 – 9:00 pm Session 3
Thursday	Jan 28 th	5:45 – 9:00 pm Session 4
Monday	Feb 1 st	5:45 – 9:00 pm Session 5
Thursday	Feb 4 th	5:45 – 9:00 pm Session 6
Saturday	Feb 6 th	9:00am – 3:00 pm Sessions 7 & 8

Spring 2021 Session – March Classroom Trainings

Thursday	March 18 th	6:00 – 7:30 pm - Orientation
Monday	March 22 nd	5:45 – 9:00 pm - Session 1
Thursday	March 25 th	5:45 – 9:00 pm - Session 2
Saturday	March 27 th	9:00am – 3:00 pm - Session 3 & 4
Monday	March 29 th	5:45 – 9:00 pm - Session 5
Thursday	April 1 st	5:45 – 9:00 pm - Session 6
Monday	April 5 th	5:45 – 9:00 pm - Session 7
Thursday	April 8 th	5:45 – 9:00 pm - Session 8

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

**August 2021 – Possible Flex Training depending on demand.
Would follow same format as above**

Fall 2021 Session – September Classroom Trainings

Thursday	Sept 9 th	6:00 – 7:30 pm - Orientation
Monday	Sept 13 th	5:45 – 9:00 pm - Session 1
Thursday	Sept 16 th	5:45 – 9:00 pm - Session 2
Monday	Sept 20 th	5:45 – 9:00 pm - Session 3
Thursday	Sept 23 rd	5:45 – 9:00 pm - Session 4
Monday	Sept 27 th	5:45 – 9:00 pm - Session 5
Thursday	Sept 30 th	5:45 – 9:00 pm - Session 6
Saturday	Oct 2 nd	9:00am – 3:00 pm - Session 7 & 8

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

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

