



2022 - 2023 Advocate Training Calendar

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

August 2022 – Possible DAYTIME Flex Training depending on demand.

*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.

Thursday	July 28th	9 – 10:30am (books & instructions)
Monday	Aug 1st	9 – 12pm – Session 1
Thursday	Aug 4th	9 – 12pm – Session 2
Monday	Aug 8th	9 – 12pm – Session 3
Thursday	Aug 11th	9 – 12pm – Session 4
Monday	Aug 15th	9 – 12pm – Session 5

Fall 2022 Session – September New Volunteer Classroom Sessions

Thursday	Sept 8th	6:00 – 7:30 pm - Orientation
Monday	Sept 12th	5:45 – 9:00 pm - Session 1
Thursday	Sept 15th	5:45 – 9:00 pm - Session 2
Monday	Sept 19th	5:45 – 9:00 pm - Session 3
Thursday	Sept 22nd	5:45 – 9:30 pm - Session 4 review & Session 5
Monday	Sept 26th	5:45 – 9:30 pm - Session 6 review & Session 7
Thursday	Sept 29th	5:45 – 9:00 pm - Session 8

Winter 2023 Session – January Classroom Trainings

Thursday	Jan 12th	6:00 – 7:30 pm - Orientation
Monday	Jan 16th	5:45 – 9:00 pm - Session 1
Thursday	Jan 19th	5:45 – 9:00 pm - Session 2
Monday	Jan 23rd	5:45 – 9:00 pm - Session 3
Thursday	Jan 26th	5:45 – 9:30 pm - Session 4 review & Session 5
Monday	Jan 30th	5:45 – 9:30 pm - Session 6 review & Session 7
Thursday	Feb 2nd	5:45 – 9:00 pm - Session 8

Spring 2023 Session – March Classroom Trainings

Thursday	March 23 rd	6:00 – 7:30 pm - Orientation
Monday	March 27 th	5:45 – 9:00 pm - Session 1
Thursday	March 30 th	5:45 – 9:00 pm - Session 2
Monday	April 3 rd	5:45 – 9:00 pm - Session 3
Thursday	April 7 th	5:45 – 9:30 pm - Session 4 review & Session 5
Monday	April 10 th	5:45 – 9:30 pm - Session 6 review & Session 7
Thursday	April 14 th	5:45 – 9:00 pm - Session 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/>

