

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 49th Legislature (2004)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
HOUSE BILL NO. 2303

By: Mitchell

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

( Children - court-appointed special advocates -  
emergency )

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 10 O.S. 2001, Section 1505, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 105, O.S.L. 2003 (10 O.S. Supp. 2003, Section 1505), is amended to read as follows:

Section 1505. A. 1. The presiding or associate district judge or other judge with juvenile or deprived child docket responsibilities ~~may~~, with the approval of the county commissioners, ~~appoint~~ may designate a juvenile officer or an assistant juvenile officer as a staff position for an existing court-appointed special advocate (CASA) as juvenile officer program.

~~1.~~ 2. In counties having a population in excess of twenty-four thousand (24,000), one juvenile officer may be employed in the respective county ~~to handle juvenile deprived cases and other related matters;.~~

~~2.~~ 3. In counties having a population in excess of forty thousand (40,000), a juvenile officer and assistant juvenile officer may be employed in the respective county ~~to handle juvenile deprived cases and other related matters.~~

B. 1. a. A ~~CASA~~ court-appointed special advocate program, as defined in paragraph 11 of subsection A of Section

~~7001-1.3 of this title,~~ may employ and manage the juvenile officer and/or the assistant juvenile officer. ~~A court-appointed special advocate may serve as the juvenile officer and a volunteer coordinator employed by a CASA program may be named the assistant juvenile officer.~~

- b. ~~When~~ If a staff position within a CASA court-appointed special advocate program, ~~as defined in paragraph 11 of subsection A of Section 7001-1.3 of this title,~~ is ~~appointed~~ designated by a court as the juvenile officer, the ~~CASA~~ CASA court-appointed special advocate program shall maintain an independent board of directors and shall function pursuant to the provisions of ~~the Oklahoma Children's Code or the Oklahoma Juvenile Code~~ this section.

2. The county commissioners may approve county funding to a ~~(CASA)~~ court-appointed special advocate program as salaries of the juvenile officer and/or assistant juvenile officer.

3. a. The salary of the juvenile officer shall be not less than sixty percent (60%) nor more than ninety percent (90%) of Class A officers of the county. The salary of the assistant juvenile officer shall be not less than sixty percent (60%) nor more than eighty percent (80%) of Class A officers of the county. Such salaries shall be paid from county funds.

~~Except as provided in paragraph 5 of this subsection, the~~

- b. The juvenile officer and assistant juvenile officer shall be entitled to reimbursement for all traveling expenses incurred in the performance of official duties. Such expenses shall be paid upon sworn itemized claims. When transportation involves the use of the private automobile of the juvenile officer or

assistant juvenile officer, such officer shall be entitled to claim reimbursement for use thereof at the rate provided for state employees under the State Travel Reimbursement Act. Such reimbursement shall be from county funds.

4. The county may allow the CASA court-appointed special advocate program employees to participate in all county employee benefit programs including, but not limited to, health care plans. ~~The CASA program shall, upon the county's request, reimburse the county for the cost of the CASA's participation in such programs.~~

5. The county may provide adequate office space for the CASA court-appointed special advocate program. ~~All other expenses of the CASA including, but not limited to, travel reimbursement shall be the responsibility of the CASA program.~~

6. ~~The court-appointed special advocate~~ juvenile officer and assistant juvenile officer shall serve at the pleasure of the court.

C. The county may fund or supplement the salaries of one or more court-appointed special advocate program employees. The county may allow court-appointed special advocate program employees to participate in county employee benefit programs including, but not limited to, health care plans. The county may provide office space for the court-appointed special advocate program and other support as deemed appropriate.

D. The provisions of this ~~act~~ section shall apply to juvenile officers employed subsequent to the effective date of this act.

~~D.~~ E. The provisions of this act shall not be applicable in counties which maintain a Juvenile Bureau under the provisions of Sections 1201 through 1210 of this title.

F. For purposes of this section, a court-appointed special advocate program means a program as defined by Section 7001-1.3 of this title.

SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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