

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 2303

By: Mitchell, McCarter and
Sweeden of the House

and

Monson of the Senate

An Act relating to children; amending 10 O.S. 2001, Section 1505, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 105, O.S.L. 2003 (10 O.S. Supp. 2003, Section 1505), which relates to court-appointed special advocates; clarifying authority of court and county relating to employ or contract for juvenile officers and assistant juvenile officers; modifying program requirements; providing for certain contractual provisions; removing certain funding, reimbursement and expenditure requirements; and defining term.

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. ~~The 1.~~ As provided by this subsection, 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 employ a court-appointed special advocate (CASA) as juvenile officer or an assistant juvenile officer or contract with a court-appointed special advocate program to provide juvenile officer or assistant juvenile officer services.

~~1.~~ 2. In counties having a population in excess of twenty-four thousand (24,000), the presiding or associate district judge, with the approval of the county commissioners, may:

- a. employ one juvenile officer may be employed in for the respective county to handle juvenile deprived cases and other related matters, or
- b. contract with a court-appointed special advocate program to provide such services.

~~2.~~ 3. In counties having a population in excess of forty thousand (40,000), a the presiding or associate district judge, with the approval of the county commissioners, may:

- a. employ one juvenile officer and one assistant juvenile officer may be employed in for the respective county to handle juvenile deprived cases and other related matters, or

b. contract with a court-appointed special advocate program to provide such services.

B. 1. a. ~~A CASA 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 a CASA program, as defined in paragraph 11 of subsection A of Section 7001-1.3 of this title, is appointed by a court as the juvenile officer, the CASA 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.~~

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

~~3. The~~ If employed:

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, and~~

b. 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~~

2. 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~~ C. 1. If the county contracts with a court-appointed special advocate program:

a. the county may allow 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., and~~

~~5. The~~

b. 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.

2. Participation in any county benefit program or the provision
of office space shall be included in the contract with the court-
appointed special advocate program.

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

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

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

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.

Passed the House of Representatives the 27th day of April, 2004.

Presiding Officer of the House of
Representatives

Passed the Senate the 7th day of April, 2004.

Presiding Officer of the Senate