

1 ENGROSSED SENATE
2 BILL NO. 1597

By: Gollihare, Jett, Murdock,
Coleman, and Pederson of
the Senate

3
4 and

Moore of the House

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8 An Act relating to the Oklahoma Children's Code;
9 amending 10A O.S. 2021, Section 1-8-102, as amended
10 by Section 1, Chapter 310, O.S.L. 2022 (10A O.S.
11 Supp. 2025, Section 1-8-102), which relates to court-
12 appointed special advocates; removing requirement for
13 state association to adhere to certain national
14 standards; updating statutory language; and providing
15 an effective date.

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

17 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 10A O.S. 2021, Section 1-8-102, as
18 amended by Section 1, Chapter 310, O.S.L. 2022 (10A O.S. Supp. 2025,
19 Section 1-8-102), is amended to read as follows:

20 Section 1-8-102. A. Any court-appointed special advocate
21 (CASA) available for appointment pursuant to the Oklahoma Children's
22 Code or the Oklahoma Juvenile Code shall complete education and
23 training courses in accordance with ~~national and~~ Oklahoma CASA
24 standards.

1 B. No court-appointed special advocate shall be assigned a case
2 before:

3 1. Completing a training program in compliance with ~~nationally~~
4 ~~documented Court-Appointed Special Advocate~~ court-appointed special
5 advocate standards. Documentation of training shall be submitted
6 annually by local court-appointed special advocate programs to the
7 Oklahoma Court-Appointed Special Advocate Association; and

8 2. Being approved by the local court-appointed special advocate
9 program, which ~~will~~ shall include appropriate criminal background
10 checks as provided in subsection C of this section.

11 C. 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, each local
12 court-appointed special advocate program shall require for any
13 person making application to become a court-appointed special
14 advocate volunteer or to be employed by the local court-appointed
15 special advocate program:

16 a. a child welfare records search conducted by the
17 Department of Human Services, which shall consist of a
18 search of the Child Abuse and Neglect Information
19 System maintained by the Department of Human Services
20 for review by authorized entities,

21 b. a criminal history records search conducted by the
22 Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, and

23 c. any other background check meeting the requirements as
24 set forth in Oklahoma Court-Appointed Special Advocate

1 Association state ~~or national~~ standards for local
2 programs.

3 2. If the prospective court-appointed special advocate
4 volunteer or employee of the local court-appointed special advocate
5 program has lived in ~~Oklahoma~~ this state for less than one (1) year,
6 a criminal history records search shall also be obtained from the
7 criminal history state repository of the previous state of
8 residence.

9 D. 1. Any person participating in a judicial proceeding as a
10 court-appointed special advocate shall be presumed prima facie to be
11 acting in good faith and ~~in so doing~~ shall be immune from any civil
12 liability that otherwise might be incurred or imposed.

13 2. Any person serving in a management position of a court-
14 appointed special advocate organization, including a member of the
15 Board of Directors acting in good faith, shall be immune from any
16 civil liability or any vicarious liability for the negligence of any
17 court-appointed special advocate organization advocates, managers,
18 or directors.

19 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2026.
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