

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 standards.

5 Documentation of training shall be submitted annually by local
6 court-appointed special advocate programs to the Oklahoma Court-
7 Appointed Special Advocate Association; and

8 2. Being approved by the local court-appointed special advocate
9 program, which will include appropriate criminal background checks
10 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 for less than one (1) year, a criminal
6 history records search shall also be obtained from the criminal
7 history state repository of the previous state of residence.

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

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

18 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2026.
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20 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND PUBLIC SAFETY
21 OVERSIGHT, dated 02/24/2026 - DO PASS.
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