

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 February 10, 2026

3 SENATE BILL NO. 1597

By: Gollihare, Jett, and  
4 Murdock

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6  
7 An Act relating to the Oklahoma Children's Code;  
8 amending 10A O.S. 2021, Section 1-8-102, as amended  
9 by Section 1, Chapter 310, O.S.L. 2022 (10A O.S.  
10 Supp. 2025, Section 1-8-102), which relates to court-  
11 appointed special advocates; removing requirement for  
12 state association to adhere to certain national  
13 standards; updating statutory language; and providing  
14 an effective date.

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

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

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

23 B. No court-appointed special advocate shall be assigned a case  
24 before:

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

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

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

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

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

21 c. any other background check meeting the requirements as  
22 set forth in Oklahoma Court-Appointed Special Advocate  
23 Association state ~~or national~~ standards for local  
24 programs.

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

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

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

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

18           COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
19           February 10, 2026 - DO PASS  
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