

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

3 SENATE BILL 1597

By: Gollihare

6 AS INTRODUCED

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
23 standards.

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

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

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

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

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

- b. a criminal history records search conducted by the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, and
- c. any other background check meeting the requirements as set forth in Oklahoma Court-Appointed Special Advocate Association state ~~or national~~ standards for local 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.

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