

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

SENATE BILL 1597

By: Gollihare

AS INTRODUCED

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

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

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

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

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

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