

Winter 2010 Orientation & Training

Orientation:

Please join us **Thursday, Oct 1st, 2009** from **5:30-6:30 PM** in the CASA office Conference Room at 200 Palo Pinto Street, Ste 109, Weatherford, TX. This will be an informal gathering of staff, active CASA volunteers and guests who are interested in volunteering as court appointed children's advocates.

Training:

Volunteer Advocates training classes will begin **Saturday, January 16th, 2010** and run through **Saturday, February 6th, 2010**. Classes will be held on Saturdays during this period, from 9:00AM- 3:00PM at the CASA offices in Weatherford. Training will be provided in the following areas:

Saturday, January 16th 9:00am- 3:00pm

Introducing the CASA Volunteer Role – Chapter 1

- The Mission of the CASA Program
- Understanding Child Abuse/Neglect
- Principles/Concepts of CASA Volunteer Work
- **Guest Speaker – TBA**

Introducing Law & Child Protection System - Chapter 2

- System & the Court
- The History of the Child Movement
- Laws Governing Child Abuse & Neglect Cases
- How a Case Enters the DFPS System
- Who Are the Participants in a Case?

Saturday, January 23rd 9:00am- 3:00pm

Exploring Cultural Awareness – Chapter 3

- Exploring Diversity
- Exploring Cultural Heritage
- Cultural Sensitivity/ Cross-Cultural Communication
- Understanding Personal Values
- Developing an Action Plan

Understanding Families Part I – Chapter 4

- Family Strengths and Resources
- Understanding Families through culture
- Stress in Families
- Risk Factors Associated with Child Abuse & Neglect

Understanding Families Part II – Chapter 5

- Impact of Substance Abuse/Addiction on Children/Families
- Poverty – Facts for Children
- Importance of Family to a Child

Guest Speaker – TBA

Saturday, January 30th 9:00am- 3:00pm

Understanding Children – Chapter 6

- How Children Grow and Develop
- Attachment/Separation
- Permanence for Children
- Educational, Emotional and Psychological Issues
- Resiliency

Guest Speaker – TBA

Communicating as a CASA Volunteer – Chapter 7

- Basic Communication
- Establishing Rapport & Trust with Children
- Using a Collaborative Approach
- Dealing with Conflict
- Confidentiality Revisited

Gathering Information – Chapter 8

- How a CASA Volunteer is appointed to a case
- Planning the Assessment & Gathering Information
- A Successful CASA Volunteer Interview

Saturday, February 6th 9:00am- 3:00pm

Reporting & Monitoring – Chapter 9

- Organizing Information
- Writing Court Reports & Making Effective Recommendations
- Appearing in Court
- Monitoring a Case
- **Guest Speaker – TBA**

Pulling it all Together – Chapter 10

- Building Support & Self Confidence, Volunteer Safety, Getting the Necessary Support & Supervision, CASA Program Office Procedures, Children are The Heart of the Matter, and Expectations & Evaluation.
- A Course Review: Essential Concepts for the CASA Volunteer.
- **Guest Speaker – TBA**

**DATES FOR COURT OBSERVATION, GRADUATION AND SWEARING IN WILL BE
ANNOUNCED AT A LATER DATE**