

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CONSULATES OF
MEXICO IN TEXAS, AND THE ORGANIZATION TEXAS COURT APPOINTED
SPECIAL ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN REGARDING MUTUAL
COLLABORATION IN CASES OF MEXICAN MINORS OR CHILDREN OF MEXICAN ORIGIN
WHO ARE IN CUSTODY OF THE STATE CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES UNDER THE
COLLABORATIVE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE.**

The Consulates of Mexico in Texas (“the Consulate”) and the organization Texas Court Appointed Special Advocates for children (Texas CASA) hereinafter referred as “the Parties”;

CONSIDERING Mexican children and families as a fundamental element of the Mexican communities established in the United States and, in particular, in the State of Texas;

RECOGNIZING the importance of the presence of family for a child well-being, specifically for those children in the care of state child protective services, regardless of the nationality either from the child or their family;

CONSCIOUS of the need to work together to better treat cases involving Mexican Minors under the state care of child protective services, including collaborative efforts to find and work with Mexican families, whether they reside in the United States or in Mexico;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that there are Mexican communities throughout Texas which may require the assistance of their Consulate in order to better understand child protection proceedings and the resources available to improve safety and permanency for children in Texas;

Have agreed to the following terms and conditions:

I. PURPOSE OF COLLABORATION AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to establish a collaborative framework between the Parties to work together in cases of Mexican children or children of Mexican origin who are in custody of the Texas state child protective services, and whose cases are included in the Texas CASA Collaborative Family Engagement initiative.

The objectives of this collaboration are:

- A. To connect each child with a family, even when the family might live abroad, so that every child may benefit from the connections and support that family provides.
- B. To encourage mutual collaboration and open communication between the Parties regarding cases of Mexican minors or children of Mexican origin, bearing in mind the best interest of the child.
- C. To promote and support best practices of collaborative work in cases involving any child of a Mexican family.

II. DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this MOU, the following definitions apply.

- A. **“CASA volunteer”** refers to the volunteer appointed by the Court to advocate for the best interest of a child in state custody before the court and other settings.
- B. **“The CASA Network”** Refers to all Texas CASA member programs throughout the state of Texas.
- C. **Collaborative Family Engagement (CFE)**, is an integrated or embedded approach that establishes a true team between CASA and the Texas Child Protective Service (CPS) to work together to locate and engage relatives of children currently in state custody. This **CFE team** will share the work and every success will be a cooperative achievement.
- D. **“Mexican Minor”** means an unmarried individual, under the age of eighteen, who:
 - a. Was born in Mexico;
 - b. Is a national of Mexico and other countries as long as one of those countries is not the United States of America.
- E. **“Minor of Mexican origin”** means an unmarried individual, under the age of eighteen, born in the United States to at least one parent of Mexican nationality.

- F. **“Mexican Family”** means a family with at least one parent who was either born and/or currently resides in Mexico.
- G. **“DIF”** means the Agency for Integral Family Development. This is the agency in Mexico responsible for child protection.

III. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

A. Texas CASA, to the extent of its capabilities:

1. Shall invite the Mexican Consulate, according to the consular jurisdiction in each identified CFE area, to the CFE initial training.
2. Shall invite and include the Mexican Consulate in CFE trainings, according to the area where such trainings take place and the consular jurisdiction.
3. Will encourage the CASA volunteer in the CFE Team to contact the Mexican Consulate in cases of Mexican minors of Mexican origin that are in CPS custody, to collaborate in tasks such as:
 - a. Find family members of Mexican nationality, whether in the United States or in Mexico. In order to do so, the CASA volunteer in the CFE team shall provide the Consulate with all relevant information that might be useful to locate a Mexican parent or a Mexican family member.
 - b. Collaborate in the process of engagement and work with Mexican minors or children of Mexican origin and their families, including visitation and interviews with the minors and their families, when considered appropriate. Also, the CASA volunteer in the CFE team shall alert Consular staff about Court hearings of cases of Mexican minors or children of Mexican origin, and promote the presence of Consular Staff.
4. In areas where CFE has not yet been implemented, Texas CASA will share the information about the services offered by the Mexican Consulate with the CASA network in order to encourage communication and collaboration to serve the best interest of Mexican minors or children of Mexican origin in CPS care.
5. Will promote that the CASA network include Mexican Consulates within their respective area to participate in local trainings when appropriate.

B. Mexican Consulate, to the extent of its capabilities:

1. Shall share with Texas CASA information about best practices for working with Mexican families including, but not limited to, cultural practices, communication and tools for engagement.
2. Will provide information to Texas CASA and the CASA network about the services and programs offered by the Consulate that might benefit Mexican minors and their families.
3. Shall support the CASA volunteer in the CFE team by providing consultation and assistance to engage and work with Mexican minors or children of Mexican origin as applicable.
4. Shall support the CASA volunteer in the CFE team by providing consultation and assistance to find, engage, and work with families, Mexican families, whether residing in the United States or Mexico, who may be able to provide a placement or otherwise support a child's permanent plan.
5. Will assist the CFE team in obtaining the necessary documentation from Mexico regarding Mexican children and families, including certified copies of the birth records.
6. When appropriate, the Consulate may contact DIF in order to procure the suitable socio-economic (home) studies of families in Mexico who may be eligible to obtain custody of a child. Upon receipt of the home studies, the Consulate will immediately transmit the information to the CFE team responsible for the case.
7. When a child in CPS custody is placed in the custody of a person who lives in Mexico, the Consulate will assist the CFE team in the implementation of the necessary coordination measures to carry out the repatriation or placement of said child, procuring their welfare and providing them with all the necessary services.

IV. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. Texas CASA will serve as a point of contact for questions regarding CFE related statewide issues. For the purpose of this MOU, Texas CASA designates its address as the one located at 1501 West Anderson Lane, Suite B-2, Austin, Texas 78757, and the telephone number (512) 473-2627.

2. Texas CASA and the Consulate will write a joint media release regarding the MOU and collaboration between Texas CASA and Mexican Consular Network in Texas.

V. PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES

Nothing contained in this MOU shall constitute or be construed as an express or implied waiver of the rights, privileges and immunities that the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations confers to the Consulate; nor implies, under any circumstances, that there is or there could be an employment relationship between the Consulate and/or its agents and employees and the Texas CASA and/or its agents and employees.

VI. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Any dispute arising from the interpretation or application of this MOU shall be resolved by the parties through a mutual written agreement, product of a good faith negotiation process.

VII. MUTUAL EXCHANGE OF CONTACT INFORMATION

The Consulate and Texas CASA will exchange the names, titles, and contact information for designated staff to contact for issues relating to this MOU, and will update that information as necessary.

The Consulate will provide a list with the information of the Consulates of Mexico in Texas, including the name, title and contact information of the designated staff to contact for issues relating to this MOU. (Annex 1)

Texas CASA will provide a list with the information of the CFE areas and the name, title and contact information for the appropriate staff to contact for issues relating to this MOU. It will also provide a list of the CASA network programs as well as their contact information on an annual basis. (Annex 2 and 3)

VIII. CONTACT BY CONSULATE

Notwithstanding the provisions set forth in this MOU, the Parties acknowledge that the Consulate may contact, at any time, the Department of Family and Protective Services Office of General Counsel, the Court Appointed Special Advocate and/or Office of Attorney General of the State of Texas.

IX. AMENDMENT

This MOU may be modified at any time. Any changes, deletions, extensions, or amendments to this MOU will be in writing and signed by the Parties.

X. ENTRY INTO FORCE AND TERMINATION

This MOU shall enter into force from the date of its signature and shall continue in effect until either party decides to terminate it, by providing a ninety (90) days written notice to the other Party.

The undersigned Parties certify that they have the signatory authority to bind their respective Party to the terms and conditions of this MOU. This MOU is in duplicate in both Spanish and English languages. All signed copies are equally authentic.

Signed in Austin, Texas, United States of America, the fourteenth day of November of two thousand sixteen

FOR TEXAS CASA

**FOR THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF
MEXICO IN AUSTIN, TEXAS**



Vicki Spriggs
CEO



Carlos González Gutiérrez
Consul General

**FOR THE CONSULATE OF MEXICO IN
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS**



**Juan Carlos Cué Vega
Consul**

**FOR THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF
MEXICO IN DALLAS, TEXAS**



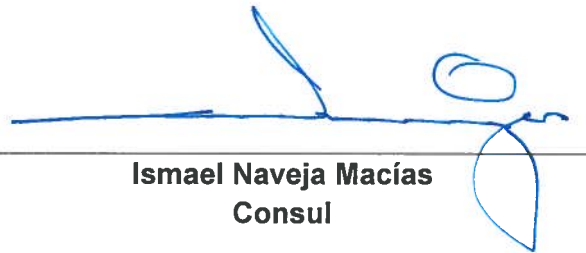
**Francisco de la Torre Galindo
Consul General**

**FOR THE CONSULATE OF MEXICO
IN DEL RÍO, TEXAS**



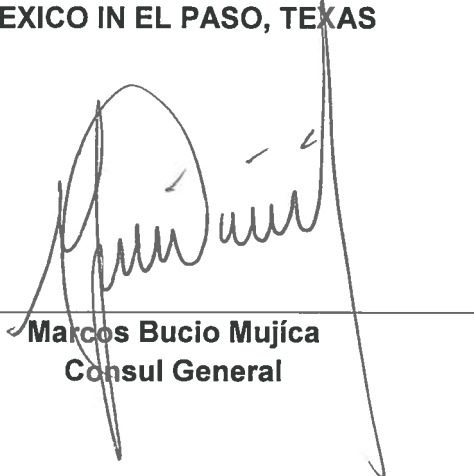
**Carlos Gustavo Obrador Garrido Cuesta
Consul**

**FOR THE CONSULATE OF MEXICO
IN EAGLE PASS, TEXAS**



**Ismael Naveja Macías
Consul**

**FOR THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF
MEXICO IN EL PASO, TEXAS**



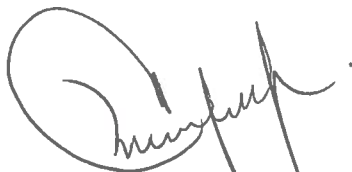
**Marcos Bucio Mujica
Consul General**

**FOR THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF
MEXICO IN HOUSTON, TEXAS**



**Oscar Rodríguez Cabrera
Consul General**

FOR THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF
MEXICO IN LAREDO, TEXAS



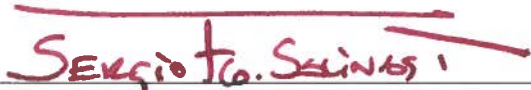
Carolina Zaragoza Flores
Consul General

FOR THE CONSULATE OF MEXICO IN
MCALLEN, TEXAS



Guillermo Ordorica Robles
Consul

FOR THE CONSULATE OF MEXICO
IN PRESIDIO, TEXAS



Sergio Francisco Salinas Meza
Consul

FOR THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF
MEXICO IN SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS



Héctor Eduardo Velasco Monroy
Consul General

ANNEX 1

DIRECTORY OF THE CONSULAR NETWORK OF MEXICO IN TEXAS

Consulate General of México in Austin

410 Baylor St.
Austin, Texas, 78703
Tel. 512-478-2866,
Fax. 512-478-8008

Contact: Blanca Gabriela Gaviño Arvizu
Consul of the Protection Department
512-478-2866 ext. 105
ggavino@sre.gob.mx

Consulate General of Mexico in Dallas

1210 River Bend,
Dallas, Texas, 75247
Tel. 214-932-06-44
Fax. 214-932-86-73

Contact: Fernando Herrera Rodríguez
Consul of Legal Affairs
214.932-06-44 ext
fherrerar@sre.gob.mx

Consulate of Mexico in Eagle Pass

2252 E. Garrison St,
Eagle Pass, Texas, 78852
Tel. 830-773-9255
Fax. 830-773-9397

Contact: Ernesto Barajas Jiménez
Head of the Protection Department
830-773-9255 ext 310
ebarajasj@sre.gob.mx

Consulate General of Mexico in Houston

4507 San Jacinto St
Houston, Texas, 77004
Tel. (713) 271-6800
Fax. (713) 779-0701

Contact: Imanol De la Flor Patiño
Consul of the Protection Department
713-857-6504 / 832-951-0432
ydelafior@sre.gob.mx

Consulate of Mexico in Brownsville

301 México Blvd. Ste. F-2,
Brownsville, Texas, 78520
Tel. 956-542-4431
Fax. 956-542-7267

Contact: Vanessa Yocelyn Ortega de la Parra
Consul of the Protection Department
956-542-8073, Ext. 6614
vortega@sre.gob.mx

Consulate of Mexico in Del Rio

2207 N. Bedell Ave.
Del Rio, Texas, 78840
Tel. 830-775-2352
Fax. 830-774-6497

Contact: José Luis Díaz Mirón Hinojosa
Consul of the Protection Department
(830) 775 2352 ext 308
jdiazm@sre.gob.mx

Consulate General of Mexico in El Paso

910 E. San Antonio Ave.
El Paso, Texas, 79901
Tel. (915) 533-4082
Fax. 915-532-7163

Contact: Omar Rivera Valderramo
Consul of the Protection Department
915-533-4082 ext 233
orivera@sre.gob.mx

Consulate General of Mexico in Laredo

1612 Farragut St.
Laredo, Texas 78040
Tel. (956) 251-9096
Fax. (956) 723 1741

Contact: Alejandro Molina Rangel
Head of the Protection Department
amolinar@sre.gob.mx

Consulate of Mexico in McAllen

600 S. Broadway St.
McAllen, Texas 78501
Tel. 956-686-0243
Fax. 956-686-4901

Contact: Oscar Alva Delgadillo
Viceconsul of the Protection Department
956-278-7120 / 956-648-9189
oalva@sre.gob.mx

Consulate of Mexico in Presidio

319 W 21 de Marzo St.
PO. Box 2259, Presidio, Texas, 79845
Tel. (432) 229-2788 ext 201
Fax. (432) 229-2792

Contact: Fernando López Vargas
Head of the Protection Department
432-229-2788 ext 201
flopezv@sre.gob.mx

Consulate General of Mexico in San Antonio

127 Navarro St,
San Antonio, Texas, 78205
Tel. 210-227-1817
Fax (210) 227-1817

Contact: Cecilia García Peña Silveyra
Consul of the Protection Department
210-227-9145, ext. 318
cgarcia@consulmexsat.org

ANNEX 2

DIRECTORY OF CFE WORKING AREAS IN TEXAS

CASA of the Coastal Bend | Corpus Christi

Serving Nueces County

Tel. 361-884-2272

Contact: Seana Towler, Program Director

Child Advocates of Fort Bend | Richmond

Serving Fort Bend County

Tel. 281-344-5100

Fax. 281-341-0798

Contact: Metoyer Martin, Program Director

CASA Child Advocates of Montgomery County | Conroe

Serving Montgomery County

Tel. 936-441-5437

Fax. 936-760-4180

Contact: Pat Creighton, Program Director

CASA of Hidalgo County | Edinburg

Serving Hidalgo County

Tel. 956-381-0346

Fax. 956-381-9232

Contact: Diana Almaguer, Executive Director

CASA of Tarrant County | Ft. Worth

Serving Tarrant County

Tel. 817-877-5891

Fax. 817-877-320

Contact: Denee Bouchard, Program Director

CASA of Liberty/Chambers Counties | Liberty

Serving Chambers and Liberty Counties

Tel. 936-334-9000

Fax. 936-334-9001

Contact: Kathy Dagle, Program Director

CASA of Hood & Somervell Counties | Granbury

Serving Hood and Somervell Counties

Tel. 817-579-6866

Contact: Jean Cate, Program Director

CASA of Johnson County | Cleburne

Serving Johnson County

Tel. 817-558-6995

Fax. 817-556-9522

Contact: Kathy McClure, Executive Director

CASA-Hope for Children | Weatherford

Serving Palo Pinto and Parker Counties

Tel. 817-599-6224

Fax. 817-887-5541

Contact: Monica Riedlinger, Program Director

ANNEX 3

CASA NETWORK IN TEXAS

| | | |
|----------------|---|--------------|
| Abilene | Big Country CASA | 325-677-6448 |
| Alpine | Frontier CASA | 432-837-7448 |
| Amarillo | Amarillo Area CASA, Inc. | 806-373-2272 |
| Angleton | CASA of Brazoria County | 979-849-7751 |
| Athens | CASA of Trinity Valley | 903-675-7070 |
| Austin | CASA of Travis County | 512-459-2272 |
| Bastrop | CASA of Bastrop County | 512-303-2272 |
| Bay City | CASA of Matagorda & Wharton Counties | 979-282-9223 |
| Beaumont | CASA of Southeast Texas | 409-832-2272 |
| Beeville | CASA of Bee, Live Oak & McMullen Counties | 361-542-4407 |
| Bonham | Fannin County Children's Center | 903-583-4339 |
| Brenham | CASA for Kids of South Central Texas | 979-277-0088 |
| Brownsville | CASA of Cameron & Willacy Counties | 956-546-6545 |
| Brownwood | CASA in the Heart of Texas | 325-643-2557 |
| Bryan | Voices for Children, Inc. - CASA of Brazos Valley | 979-822-9700 |
| Childress | CASA of the Rolling Plains | 940-937-3180 |
| Cleburne | CASA of Johnson County | 817-558-6995 |
| Conroe | CASA Child Advocates of Montgomery County | 936-441-5437 |
| Corpus Christi | CASA of the Coastal Bend | 361-884-2272 |
| Corsicana | CASA of Navarro County | 903-872-3772 |
| Dalhart | CASA 69, Inc. | 806-244-2684 |
| Dallas | Dallas CASA | 214-827-8961 |
| Decatur | CASA of Wise & Jack Counties | 940-627-7535 |
| Denton | CASA of Denton County | 940-243-2272 |
| Edinburg | CASA of Hidalgo County | 956-381-0346 |
| El Paso | CASA of El Paso | 915-225-5214 |
| Fort Worth | CASA of Tarrant County | 817-877-5891 |
| Gainesville | CASA of North Texas | 940-665-2244 |
| Galveston | CASA of Galveston County | 409-572-2552 |
| Georgetown | CASA of Williamson County | 512-868-2822 |
| Graham | North Star CASA | 940-549-9829 |
| Granbury | CASA of Hood & Somervell Counties | 817-579-6866 |
| Greenville | CASA for Hunt County | 903-450-4410 |
| Hereford | Great Plains CASA for Kids | 806-363-1211 |
| Houston | Child Advocates, Inc. | 713-529-1396 |
| Huntsville | CASA of Walker, San Jacinto & Trinity Counties | 936-291-6363 |
| Kerrville | Hill Country CASA | 830-896-2272 |
| Kingsland | CASA for the Highland Lakes Area | 325-388-3440 |
| Kingsville | Brush Country CASA | 361-595-7233 |
| Laredo | Voz de Niños | 956-727-8691 |
| Liberty | CASA of Liberty/Chambers Counties | 936-334-9000 |
| Longview | East Texas CASA | 903-753-8093 |
| Lubbock | CASA of the South Plains | 806-763-2272 |
| Lufkin | CASA of the Pines | 936-634-6725 |
| Marshall | CASA of Harrison County | 903-923-9224 |
| Mason | Bluebonnet CASA | 325-347-6474 |

| | | |
|-----------------|--|--------------|
| McKinney | CASA of Collin County | 972-529-2272 |
| Midland | CASA of West Texas | 432-683-1114 |
| Mount Pleasant | CASA of Titus, Camp & Morris Counties | 903-717-8940 |
| Nacogdoches | CASA of Deep East Texas | 936-560-4711 |
| New Braunfels | CASA of Central Texas | 830-626-2272 |
| Odessa | CASA of the Permian Basin Area | 432-498-4174 |
| Orange | CASA of the Sabine Neches Region | 409-886-2272 |
| Pampa | CASA of the High Plains | 806-669-7638 |
| Paris | CASA for KIDS | 903-737-4346 |
| Pleasanton | CASA of South Texas | 830-569-4696 |
| Rockwall | Lone Star CASA | 972-772-5858 |
| Rosenberg | Child Advocates of Fort Bend | 281-341-9955 |
| San Angelo | Children's Advocacy Center of Tom Green County | 325-653-4673 |
| San Antonio | Child Advocates San Antonio, Inc. | 210-225-7070 |
| Sherman | CASA of Grayson County | 903-813-5400 |
| Stephenville | CASA for the Cross Timbers Area | 254-965-6610 |
| Sulphur Springs | Lake Country CASA | 903-885-1173 |
| Temple | CASA of Bell & Coryell Counties | 254-774-1881 |
| Texarkana | CASA of Northeast Texas | 870-775-1252 |
| Tyler | CASA for Kids of East Texas | 903-597-7725 |
| Uvalde | Tri-County CASA | 830-278-7733 |
| Victoria | Golden Crescent CASA, Inc. | 361-573-3734 |
| Waco | CASA of McLennan & Hill Counties | 254-304-7982 |
| Waxahachie | CASA of Ellis County | 972-937-1455 |
| Weatherford | CASA - Hope for Children, Inc. | 817-599-6224 |
| Wichita Falls | Child Advocates CASA of Red River | 940-766-0552 |