

COURTESY CASA

Child Advocates of Fort Bend launched the Courtesy CASA Program in 2017 in collaboration with Texas CASA. The program was established to visit with children who were placed out of their home county for the purpose of ensuring their safety and well-being. The information gathered during visits allows the assigned CASA program to make more informed recommendations.



Courtesy CASAs provide local CASA programs with the unique benefit of having a trained CASA staff member visit with their youth face-to-face when they are placed outside of their county of jurisdiction. Local CASA programs request Courtesy CASA visits for children who are in urgent need of an in-person visit that their volunteer or program cannot currently provide.

Courtesy CASAs visit youth in their placement and accept requests throughout the United States. All requests will be reviewed and considered based on need, location, funding and availability. Courtesy CASA visits can be utilized for up to 50% of required face-to-face visits. Courtesy CASAs visit with the child(ren), observe interactions between them and their caregiver(s), inquire about school, medical/dental needs, safety, behavior, take pictures, bring age appropriate activities, offer a virtual call with the local CASA program and provide a detailed report with follow up recommendations to the assigned CASA program within 14 days of the visit.



Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI):

Courtesy CASAs utilize TBRI strategies to establish a foundation of connection, making sure we are meeting youth where they are, showing empathy, compassion and helping them build trust and healthy foundations. We implement dysregulation/regulation activities, use playful engagement and work to identify the need behind the behavior. Courtesy CASAs utilize sensory bags which contain a variety of activities and objects based on the child's age and developmental level. These items include fidgets, snacks, art supplies, books, journals, toys and games.

Collaborative Family Engagement (CFE):

Courtesy CASAs strive to incorporate CFE principals, tools and activities with youth by inquiring who the children have connections with in their current and past placements to better understand who are within their support system. Sibling/family relationships, educational progress and mental health are also discussed and shared with the locally assigned program to help them better advocate for children's needs.

For more information on the CAFB Courtesy CASA please reach out to **Stevie Irby** at sirby@cafb.org or visit www.cafb.org.