

# FAQ



## ***What is the Courtesy CASA Program?***

Texas CASA in collaboration with Child Advocates of Fort Bend established the Courtesy CASA Program to assist with visiting children who are placed out of their local jurisdiction. When a requesting program cannot visit a child as often due to distance a Courtesy CASA can assist and ensure the child's needs are being met and reported back to the local program.

## ***Where can Courtesy CASAs travel?***

Courtesy CASAs can travel throughout the continental United States. Courtesy CASA's visit children where they are residing (foster homes, relative placements, fictive kin placements, residential treatment facilities, CWOP or hospitals).

## ***Do Courtesy CASA visits count as a required CASA visit?***

Yes. According to Texas CASA, Courtesy CASA visits can be utilized for up to 50% of required face to face visits. For example, if in person visits are required quarterly, the requesting program will see the child at least twice, and up to two Courtesy CASA visits can be counted. However, Courtesy CASAs cannot guarantee all requested visits within the required timeframe. Please refer to local program requirements as well.

## ***How many visits does a request form cover?***

Requests of 301 miles or more from the assigned CASA program are one time visit requests. If additional visits are required, a new form will need to be submitted for each request. For visits under 300 miles, ongoing requests (for up to 3 visits) can be made. After 3 visits, an updated request form should be submitted. Visits are based on availability, funding, and the priority matrix. Monthly, consecutive visits cannot be guaranteed.





## ***Who can request a Courtesy CASA visit?***

Courtesy CASA visits are available to all 72 CASA programs in Texas. Requests can be made by the CASA staff. If a volunteer wants to submit a request, please consult with your local program staff. All requests will be reviewed and considered.

## ***Do Courtesy CASAs visit children outside of the home?***

No. Courtesy CASAs only visit children at their placement. Our role and accessibility is limited compared to an assigned CASA volunteer or program. We do not visit youth in schools, daycares, family visits etc.

## ***Can Courtesy CASAs transport youth?***

No, Courtesy CASAs cannot transport youth.

## ***What can a program expect from a Courtesy CASA visit?***

Courtesy CASAs visit the child(ren), see them in their placement, observe interactions with caregivers, ask about school, medical/dental needs, safety, needs, take pictures and provide a detailed report with follow up recommendations to the requesting program within 14 days of the visit. Courtesy CASA's also utilize TBRI principals and CFE tools within all visits.

## ***Who follows up on the encouraged follow up recommendations Courtesy CASAs make?***

Our findings, updates and recommendations are provided to the requesting program to follow up at their discretion (as they are assigned to the child(ren) and their case). Due to our limited role we are not able to attend case conferences, school meetings or court hearings.

**For more information, please contact Stevie Irby at [sirby@cafb.org](mailto:sirby@cafb.org)**



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