**HCCASA CALENDAR + ANNOUNCE LIST August 2021**

Texas CASA has **continued the waiver on child face to face visits through** September 25, 2021. We encourage you to make face to face visits with your child(ren) if you’re comfortable to do so.

Court, Meetings, and Mediations will continue **virtually** for now; the earliest we ***might*** go back to in-person **court** is October 1.

August 6 – 8, 2021 is Texas Tax Free Weekend. **Our local Kerrville Belk is holding a back-to-school supply drive for the children Hill Country CASA serves**. Please consider supporting CASA by wearing your CASA ID and shopping at Belk during these dates.

Belk is collecting school supplies, clothing, shoes and other items; as soon as we receive these to the office we’ll let you know so we can work together to distribute to the children.

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**Press CTRL+Click of the links below to go straight to the topic:**

**CTRL + Click here to go straight to: [COVID-19 Webpage and Information](http://www.hccasa.org/covid19)**

**[Court Hearings + Video Attendance Protocols](#_COURT_HEARINGS:)*****[(with updated Zoom video protocols from May 2021)](#_COURT_HEARINGS:)***

[**August Court / Meeting Calendar**](#_CASA_CALENDAR_SEPTEMBER)

**[Meetings](#_MEETINGS:)**

[**Child Visits**](#_CHILD_VISITS:)  ***(with updated Visitation Protocols for May 2021)***

**[CASA Office Hours](#_CASA_OFFICE:)**

**[CASA LIVE Virtual Training](#_CASA_VIRTUAL_TRAINING:)**

**[CASA At-Your-Own Pace Training](#_AT_YOUR_OWN)**

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# COURT HEARINGS:

HCCASA Court Swear In: *“Name, Hill Country CASA, Guardian Ad Litem for the Child(ren)”.*

**Court has shared their preference that all participants in hearings participate by video. If you need assistance, or to come to the office to use our webcam, please let us know.**

**PROTOCOLS FOR HCCASA STAFF/VOLUNTEERS ATTENDING HEARINGS BY VIDEO**

1. Log into your account at zoom.us and choose “Join Meeting”
2. Enter the Meeting ID and Passcode listed in the Calendar, to the left of your name.
3. If a pop-up window “Open Zoom Meetings?” appears in your browser, click the “Open Zoom Meetings” button.
4. When the Zoom screen appears, choose “Join with Computer Audio”.
5. Use the MUTE button on the bottom left of the screen at all times when not speaking (when the MUTE is ON, there will be a red line through the microphone icon)
6. Listen for your Case Supervisor to announce themselves, and then unmute and announce yourself - “Name, Hill Country CASA, Guardian Ad Litem for the Child(ren)”
7. When called upon by the Judge, unmute yourself to give oral testimony, and then mute yourself again
8. Click End button on bottom right of screen when your hearing is concluded



Click “Start Video” to enable your webcam.

Use the MUTE button when you’re not speaking. When MUTE is ON, there will be a red line through the microphone icon

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# CASA CALENDAR AUGUST 2021

**Abbreviations**: Adversarial Hearing (**Removal**), Family Group Conference (**FGC**), Transition Plan Meeting (**TPM**), 60 Day/Status Review (**Status**), Initial Permanency Hearing (**IPH**), Permanency Review before Final Order (**PH**), Permanency Review after Final Order (**PR**), Progress Review (**Progress**), Permanency Planning Meeting (**PPM**), Pre-Trial Conference (**PTC**), Merits Trial (**Merits**), Adoption (**Adopt**) and Dismissal (**Final**).

**All Hearings will be held by Zoom; we will send a calendar with Zoom ID information the week of the hearing, as we receive it from the Court.**

**Monday, August 2, Mediation**

9:00 Myhre-Beggs Berlin (823) RL

**Wednesday, August 4, Kerr Court**

9:00 McCain-Overgard-Shelton (PH) Lukacs (097) CR

9:30 Myhre-Beggs (Merits) Berlin (823) RL

10:00 Ballard (Merits) Andrews (994) CR

10:30 Hargrove (IPH) Pfeiff (381) AH

11:30 Stewart-Stokes (PH) Luttrell (676) AH

1:00 Boner-Flora (Status) Nelson (153) AH

**Wednesday, August 4, Bandera Court**

2:00 Holan (Removal) Mirsky (489) GR

**Thursday, August 5, Kendall Court**

1:30 Thompson (Removal) Goss (522) RL

**Monday, August 9, Family Meetings**

1:00 Castro Carr (006) RL

2:00 Lacey Weber (688) RL

**Wednesday, August 11, Kerr Court**

9:00 Lacey (Merits) Weber (688) RL

9:30 Ybarra (Merits) Martin (660) AH

**Thursday, August 12, Bandera Court**

10:00 Rodney (Progress) Bardwell (458) GR

**Friday, August 13, Bandera Court**

8:30 Anderwald (Merits) Pond (504) GR

11:00 Benner (PR) Brichettos (416) GR

**Friday, August 13, Kendall Court**

11:30 Florendo (PR) Whitecotton (310) RL

**Friday, August 13, Bandera Court**

9:00 Bennack-Brawner (Merits) Weber (688) GR

9:30 Bird (PR) Daniels (606) GR

10:00 Mitchem (IPH) Fields-Himes (496) GR

10:30 Martinez-Parks (PH) Taylor (902) GR

11:00 Downs (Merits) Bardwell (458) GR

1:00 Sheeds (Progress) Ertel (326) GR

1:30 Camacho (Status) Seewald (139) GR

**Friday, August 13, Kerr Court**

2:00 Cribbs (Status) Helm (304) CR

**Wednesday, August 18, Kerr Court**

9:00 Runyan (PR) Gramatikakis (136) RL

9:30 Pearson-Reyes (Status) Ward (865) RL

**Wednesday, August 18, Bandera Court**

10:00 Jennings (Adoption/Dismissal) Mirsky (489) GR

**Wednesday, August 18, Mediation**

10:30 Lind McDonald (119) AH

**Thursday, August 19, Bandera Court**

11:00 Grover (Adoption/Dismissal) Fields-Himes (496) GR

1:00 Yeager (Merits) Putnam (243) GR

**New CASA volunteer training @CASA office Friday, August 20th from 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM**

**Wednesday, August 25, Kendall Court**

9:00 Connolly (PR) Janosek (032) RL

9:30 Williams (PH) Oates (568) RL

10:30 St. James (IPH) Chappell (356) RL

11:00 Kathol (IPH) Bluff (977) RL

11:30 Thompson (Status) Goss (522) RL

**Thursday, August 26, Gillespie Court**

9:00 Lind (Merits) McDonald (119) AH

9:30 Barrientes (Merits) Ebersole (024) AH

1:00 Adams (PH) Williams (868) AH

1:30 LeLeux (PR) E. Sheehan (804) AH

1:30 Cole (PR) Aleman (983) AH

1:30 Turner (PR) Lindemann (489) AH

1:30 Allen (Merits) Hartnett (674) AH

**New CASA volunteer training @CASA office Friday, August 27th from 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM**

**Tuesday, August 31, Bandera Court**

10:00 Serda (PR) McDaniel (802) GR

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# MEETINGS:

As of July 2021 – we have been told that select CPS meetings will occur in person. Most meetings will continue to be virtual. If your case has an in person meeting scheduled we will let you know.

Otherwise, your supervisor will give you the option to attend meetings and mediations either virtually (with video) or by phone only.

If you choose to attend meetings virtually, please be mindful of your background and follow the normal protocols for meetings in person regarding dress, decorum.

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# CHILD VISITS:

**Thank you all, for your diligence in maintaining contact in the best interest of our children through the pandemic.**

# CHILD VISIT PROTOCOLS (updated May 2021)

1. Both you as the CASA advocate and the current placement need to agree to the visit. If the placement has an objection, find alternative means to make the visit. Those alternatives could be:
2. Drive by visit where the placement and child go out to the porch and/or sidewalk to visit with you in your car
3. Visit outside with social distancing and masks
4. Meet placement/children at a public location and visit over a meal
5. If no other options, do a virtual visit – let your supervisor know if placement will not allow you to visit
6. Before your visit, check with the placement about any contact with someone who has been sick, quarantined or tested positive for COVID-19; reschedule your visit if risk factors are present.
7. During visits you are **court ordered** to wear a mask and practice social distancing to the best of your ability.
8. **Effective May 1, 2021 CASA transportation of children is reinstated.** Please only transport children if all these conditions apply: you feel comfortable doing so; CASA supervisor has approved; CPS has approved; you have driving record check on file at CASA.
9. **Effective May 1, 2021, CASA may bring items (toys, books, etc) to children they visit in person.** CASA office has lots of games and toys and things for children to share.
10. Should you become ill and suspect you have exposed a child after a visit, please make sure to notify the individuals with whom you have been in contact so they can take the appropriate steps. Also, notify your Case Supervisor.
11. If you identify issues of abuse or neglect during a visit, please report the information you obtained to:
12. CASA Case Supervisor
13. CPS Caseworker through email and phone call
14. CPS Child Abuse Hotline 1-800-252-5400

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# CASA OFFICE HOURS:

The CASA office is open Monday through Thursday, from 9 AM to 5 PM each week. Fridays, staff will all work remotely and the CASA office will be closed.

In accordance with [updated CDC guidelines of May 13, 2021](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/participate-in-activities.html), we will no longer require a temperature check or mask to enter the CASA building.

Staff have been encouraged to take summer vacation days; your Supervisor will let you know when they are planning to be out of the office. If you have any needs while your Supervisor is out, please call the CASA office to assist you!

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# CASA VIRTUAL TRAINING:

We will pause live training in August while we plan for the new fiscal year starting September 1. In September, we will resume training in person at the office, and will continue to have Zoom for those who wish to attend virtually.

In the meantime, please see below for HCCASA’s summer continuing education lists; we’ve included many options for learning at your own pace. Don’t forget to upload your independent learning into your Optima account!

# AT YOUR OWN PACE LEARNING:

[How every child can thrive by five](https://www.ted.com/talks/molly_wright_how_every_child_can_thrive_by_five?utm_source=facebook.com&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=social&utm_content=2021-7-23-cutdown&fbclid=IwAR0nLYHoucjtsKgZNvupIUF4Z0vOV7fy0cyoQV-Pa2De-0BwLDA_AyfKA5A#t-245229) – a TED Talk by a 7 year old young lady about early brain development in infants and young children, and how you can help positive early brain development when interacting with them! *(Thanks Elizabeth Sheehan for sharing!)*

Click here for [HCCASA Resources](https://hccasa.org/resources/) & [Independent Study](https://hccasa.org/learning-a-distance/) webpages at hccasa.org.

[Click here to go straight to our video library.](https://vimeo.com/showcase/learning-a-distance) (The password is CASAKIDS).

Did you know there are over 70 continuing education videos in our Vimeo library? Among the topics we’ve produced are:

1. Evaluating Safety in a CPS case
2. PMC 101, 201 AND 301
3. Kinship care and support
4. Advocating for Normalcy
5. The Law and Best Interests
6. Statutory Timelines
7. Compliance v. Non-compliance
8. Court Reports and Best Interest
9. Parental Presumption
10. Cultural Diversity

In addition to the continuing education videos we’ve produced in-house above, please see below for a list of **feature films** **and a book** that will count for 2021 continuing education. These videos are available through streaming providers listed.

Featured on *Amazon Prime Video* – Foster Boy, Beautiful Boy

Featured on Amazon Kindle free library – Redefining Normal: How Two Foster Kids Beat The Odds and Discovered Healing, Happiness, and Love

Featured on Amazon Kindle Unlimited *(thanks Ann Taylor for the recommendation!)* - Called Troubled: the failed promise of America’s behavioral treatment programs, by Ken Rosen

Featured on *Netflix* – Trials of Gabriel Fernandez, Babies, I am Jane Doe, The Bad Kids

Featured on *HBO* – Weight of Gold, At the Heart of Gold, Boy Interrupted, Thin, A Dangerous Son, Capturing the Friedmans, Leaving Neverland

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