**HCCASA CALENDAR + ANNOUNCE LIST FEBRUARY 2022**

**EMAIL US TO SECURE YOUR FREE REGISTRATION TO THE 2022 AD LITEM SEMINAR!**

ALL 12.0 CASA REQUIRED ANNUAL TRAINING HOURS IN ONE EVENT!

FEBRUARY 24 – 25, 2022 ON ZOOM

MORE INFORMATION: [WWW.HCCASA.ORG/SEMINAR](https://hccasa-my.sharepoint.com/personal/stephanie_hccasa_org/Documents/Calendars%20and%20Announcements/WWW.HCCASA.ORG/SEMINAR)

***\*do not register through eventbee – email us and we will register you free of charge\****

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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](#_COURT_HEARINGS:)**

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

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

[**Child Visits**](#_CHILD_VISITS:)

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

**[CASA Live and At-Your-Own-Pace Training](#_CASA_VIRTUAL_TRAINING:)**

 **[CASA Court Attendance Protocols](#_PROTOCOLS_FOR_HCCASA)**

 **[Child Visit Protocols](#_CASA_VIRTUAL_TRAINING:)**

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# COURT HEARINGS:

**We are told Court will continue on Zoom until at least March 2022.**

**How do I attend Zoom Court for my Case?** [**Click Here!**](#_PROTOCOLS_FOR_HCCASA)

**Things to Remember about Zoom Court:**

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

Prepare to Swear In to Court immediately after your Case Supervisor does.

Judges asked all to have their VIDEO on, unless there are internet connection issues. CASA office has a computer and stable connection and you are welcome to come to the office to attend Zoom court. Please let us know in advance so we have the computer ready for you!

Remember that Zoom court is live-streamed online and is a court of law. All participants should be in proper attire and conduct themselves accordingly.

**Thank you all for your excellent work on Zoom Court. You’re doing a great job!**

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# CASA CALENDAR FEBRUARY 2022

**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.**

**Tuesday, February 1, 2022, Kerr Court \*Conflict Docket**

9:00 McDaniel (Merits) Brooks (242) RL

9:30 May (Merits) Foley (380) RL

**Tuesday, February 1, 2022, Kendall Court \*Conflict Docket**

10:00 Florendo (PR) Whitecotton (310) RL

**Wednesday, February 2, 2022, Kerr Court**

9:00 Boner (PH) Nelson (153) AH

9:30 Pearson (PH) Ward (865) RL

10:30 Carrizales (PH) Oates (568) RL

11:00 Ybarra (Merits) Martin (660) AH

**Friday, February 4, 2022, Bandera Court**

9:30 Judkins (Merits) Fields-Himes (051) GR

10:00 Benner (PR) Brischetto (416) GR

10:30 Serda (PR) McDaniel (802) GR

11:00 Phillips (IPH) Richardson (640) GR

11:30 Mitchem (Merits) Fields-Himes (051) GR

**Wednesday, February 9, 2022, Kerr Court**

9:00 Vargas (Merits) J. Sheehan (660) SC

10:00 Bidlack (Status) Carpenter (911) AH

10:30 Stevens (Merits) Taylor (067) AH

**Thursday, February 10, 2022, Family Meetings**

9:00 Yeager (PPM) Putnam/GR

10:00 Knox (PPM) Chappell/RL

11:00 Morgan-McLaury Brischetto/GR

1:00 Outlaw-Williams Taylor/AH

2:00 Lark Taylor/RL

**Wednesday, February 16, 2022, Gillespie Court**

9:00 Outlaw-Williams (PH) Taylor (067) AH

**Wednesday, February 16, 2022, Kerr Court**

10:30 Wheeler (Merits) Enochs (567) AH

11:00 Salinas (Merits) Clyburn (597) RL

**Wednesday, February 23, 2022, Kendall Court**

9:00 Espinoza (Merits) Putnam (243) RL

9:30 Lark (PH) Taylor (067) RL

10:30 Knox (PR) Chappell (356) RL

1:30 Kathol (Merits) Berlin (823) RL

**Wednesday, February 23, 2022, Gillespie Court**

11:00 Lynn (Status) Luttrell (676) AH

**Monday, February 28, 2022, Kerr Court**

9:00 Fontenot (Merits) Wienecke (331) RL

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# MEETINGS:

As of October 1, 2021, we are told meetings are mostly continuing virtually.

You have the choice to attend these meetings virtually (with video) or by phone (without video). *We’ve found it is easier to participate if you are on by video, as you can see the others participating in the meeting.*

In any case, your Case Supervisor will send instructions as we receive for your meeting(s).

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:

Protocols for CASA / Child Visits: [Click Here!](#_PROTOCOLS_FOR_HCCASA_1)

On September 25, 2021, Texas CASA *extended the waiver, allowing virtual contact with children to replace the requirement for face to face contact*. The Texas CASA Board of Directors meets this Friday and we are told to expect this waiver to continue for at least another 30 days.

Please monitor the case numbers in the communities you visit children in; **we encourage volunteers to carefully visit children in person when you feel safe to do so**, and using the protocols (click the link above).

*Remember, children living in congregate care settings (RTC, CWOP, juvenile detention) are at highest risk of contracting and transmitting COVID.* Thus, we ask you call and let us know if you’re planning to visit in person, so if we have any recent information about the placement’s COVID status, we can share with you.

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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.

We are keeping the front door locked to the public, but welcome you all to visit if you’re feeling well, just knock on the door and we’ll be pleased to see you!!

We are working on getting a doorbell or some other door system in the front to make entry easier for all of our guests.

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# CASA VIRTUAL TRAINING:

**BROWN BAGS Spring Semester Dates/Topics are below.**

UPDATE: Given recent local case trends, we plan on returning to in person Brown Bags in March 2022. We will also offer a live stream via Zoom for anyone who cannot make it in person, and those will continue to be posted on our Vimeo account for you to watch at your convenience.

**All Brown Bags will be from 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM at Hill Country CASA / Zoom** and will use the same log in information (immediately below).

[*https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83453932475?pwd=KzE5Wno4YnhGVjZ5eXFib0NDZ2tlZz09*](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83453932475?pwd=KzE5Wno4YnhGVjZ5eXFib0NDZ2tlZz09)

*Log in to Zoom or for phone-only access dial:**1.346.248.7799*

*Meeting ID: 834 5393 2475*

*Passcode: 788792*

SCHEDULE:

Tuesday, March 8, 2022: *Minimum Standards and Expectations for Parents working to Reunification in CPS Cases*

Tuesday, March 22, 2022: *Bonding and Attachment for Children with Trauma Backgrounds*

Tuesday, April 12, 2022: *The Law and Best Interest of the Child*

Tuesday, April 26, 2022: *Compliance vs Non-Compliance in Family Plans of Service*

Tuesday, May 10, 2022: *The Essentials of Mediation*

Tuesday, May 24, 2022: *Medical Advocacy*

# AT YOUR OWN PACE LEARNING:

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). There are dozens of videos with helpful information about a range of topics relevant to CASA work.

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# 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

# PROTOCOLS FOR HCCASA STAFF / VOLUNTEERS CONDUCTING CHILD VISITS:

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. Regarding transportation of children: 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. Regarding gifts for children: Please do not purchase expensive gifts for the children you serve, and talk with your Case Supervisor about any gifts you plan to give. CASA office has lots of games and toys and things for children to share with you to give to children.
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