



Continuing Education FAQs

In addition to the 39 hours of Core Training and courtroom observation, we ask that volunteers complete 12 hours of Continuing Education each year. Continuing Education enables volunteers to better serve the children and families to whom they are appointed, by increasing their knowledge, developing better strategies and interventions, and promoting continued growth in their roles as volunteer advocates.

What counts for Continuing Education?

- CASA-hosted training opportunities
- Community trainings and lectures hosted by organizations other than CASA
- Books and articles (You can earn 1-4 hours of Continuing Education for a single book; no more than four (4) hours of credit per year should be completed by reading books/articles.)
- Film (Up to two (2) hours of Continuing Education per film.)
- Television (No more than four (4) hours of Continuing Education for watching a season of a television series; a television series with multiple seasons may be reported only once per calendar year.)
- Webinars and podcasts
- Information available in the CASA Resource Library on *advocate.casatexas.org*, Volunteer Updates emails, or CASA Blog recommendations
- Case-related topical research as approved by your Child/Teen Advocacy Specialist, Program Manager, or other CASA staff
- Conversations with Child Advocacy Specialist or Program Managers regarding learning opportunities to better serve youth on cases.

What content should an appropriate Continuing Education opportunity contain?

- Societal issues that can affect families involved in the child welfare system (substance abuse, sexual abuse risk management, domestic violence, poverty, trauma & resilience, etc.)
- Techniques and tools to utilize in case work (building communication skills, improving advocacy in the courtroom, etc.)
- Healthy development and outcomes for your specific CASA children (childhood development, healthy attachment, positive outcomes for teens aging out of care, etc.)
- Research on the child welfare system (policies and procedures, legislation, etc.)
- Resources, interventions, and services for use on your case (therapies for children and/or families, community resources, secondary trauma and self-care, etc.)

How much Continuing Education do I have to complete?

A minimum of 12 hours is required each calendar year (January through December). For volunteers in their first calendar year of service, the hours are prorated to one hour of credit for every remaining month in the calendar year, beginning the month a volunteer completes Core training classes. Continuing Education hours do not carry over from one year to the next. Please keep in mind that not only is this a Travis County requirement, but it is also a Texas and National CASA requirement for volunteers.

Volunteers and Staff are required by policy to participate in at least one training on an approved topic related to Abuse Risk Management per calendar year. CASA provides volunteers and staff these opportunities to meet this requirement in two ways: online directly from Praesidium https://www.praesidiumacademy.com/learn/sign_in or the Sexual Abuse Risk Management training offered by CASA Staff.

Best Practice Recommendation: Participate in one or more Continuing Education opportunities per year related to the following areas:

- Educational Advocacy
- Healthy Relationships
- Disability Rights & Support
- Trauma & Resilience
- Secondary Trauma & Self-Care
- Continued Learning on any featured topic covered in Core Training

How and where can I find out about Continuing Education opportunities?

Volunteers can check our Resource Library and RSVP for upcoming trainings at <https://advocate.casatravis.org/> or you can navigate to the Continuing education recordings to view past trainings. To access these recordings, visit the volunteer resource site at <https://advocate.casatravis.org/> and click volunteer resource area at the top right corner of the page, click Continuing education library, then select CE recording under the view by media filter. Volunteers will also be notified of Continuing Education opportunities via the monthly Volunteer Updates email. Additionally, volunteers are encouraged to pursue other learning opportunities outside of those offered directly by CASA provided they fall within the content criteria listed above.

How do I receive credit for my Continuing Education hours?

Volunteers will automatically earn Continuing Education credit for any CASA-hosted training opportunities that require a signature at sign-in.

For opportunities outside of CASA, you can enter your hours into Salesforce on your own. Click [here](#) for a guide on how to enter CE hours.

Best Practice Recommendation: include the following information in the notes section:

- Basic summary of the book or movie or television series or presentation (2-4 Sentences).
- What you learned and how it relates to CASA or Child Welfare (2-4 sentences), and
- How you see it improving your CASA Advocacy (1-3 sentences).

How can I verify that something will count toward my Continuing Education hours?

Any information that meets the criteria listed above in the “Best Practice Recommendation” section will certainly count for hours! If you are unsure, please discuss the opportunity with your Child/Teen Advocacy Specialist or email Training Specialist La’Kresha Powell at lpowell@casatravis.org to gain approval in advance.