

Guardians ad Litem Code of Conduct

THESE GUIDELINES ADDRESS THE GUARDIAN AD LITEM SERVICES NECESSARY FOR CHILDREN IN TITLE 26 PROCEEDINGS

1. The Guardian ad Litem shall represent the interest of the persons for whom he or she is appointed within the standard applied.
2. The Guardian ad Litem shall conduct the investigation pursuant to the terms set forth in the Order Appointing the Guardian ad Litem to the case.
3. The Guardian ad Litem shall make a reasonable inquiry as to the facts and issues in dispute and shall decline the appointment if the Guardian ad Litem is not qualified, competent, or able to complete the matter in a timely manner. The Guardian ad Litem shall disclose all known relationships with any of the persons involved with the case prior to accepting an appointment.
4. The Guardian ad Litem shall remain qualified for the registry to which the Guardian ad Litem is appointed and shall promptly advise the court of any grounds for disqualification or unavailability to serve.
5. The Guardian ad Litem shall maintain independence and objectivity in the Guardian ad Litem investigation. The Guardian ad Litem shall avoid any actual or apparent conflict of interest or impropriety in the conduct of the Guardian ad Litem's duties. The Guardian ad Litem should avoid self-dealing or association from which the Guardian ad Litem might directly or indirectly benefit, other than for compensation as the Guardian ad Litem. The Guardian ad Litem shall take action immediately to resolve any potential conflict or impropriety. The Guardian ad Litem shall advise the court and the parties of action taken, or resign from the matter, as may be necessary to resolve the conflict or impropriety.
6. The Guardian ad Litem shall treat the parties with respect, courtesy, fairness and good faith regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, cultural heritage, gender, age, education, economic status, marital status, sexual orientation, or disability. The Guardian ad Litem shall conduct him or herself in a professional manner at all times.
7. The Guardian ad Litem shall make reasonable efforts to become informed about the facts of the case, and shall identify professional resources when necessary to assist the Guardian ad Litem's evaluation and recommendation.
8. The Guardian ad Litem shall inform the court concerning all information upon which the recommendation is based.
9. The Guardian ad Litem shall not guarantee or create the impression that any portion of the investigation will remain confidential.
10. The Guardian ad Litem shall maintain the privacy of the parties and shall make no disclosures about the case or investigation except in reports to the court or as necessary to perform the duties of the Guardian ad Litem. This provision shall not be construed to prevent a Guardian ad Litem from reporting child abuse or adult abuse.

11. The Guardian ad Litem shall perform his or her duties in a prompt and timely manner.
12. The Guardian Ad Litem shall maintain adequate documentation to substantiate recommendations and conclusions. The Guardian ad Litem shall keep complete and contemporaneous records of actions taken and the time and expense incurred.
13. The Guardian ad Litem shall disclose his or her fee structure to the private parties responsible for paying the fees at the beginning of the investigation, and will communicate to the parties during the investigation in writing the monthly bill for services.