

In the
FAMILY COURT
of St. Louis County, Missouri



For File Stamp Only

Petitioner(s)

Date

vs.

Case Number

L J

Respondent(s)

Division

Appointment of Guardian ad Litem

Upon receipt of:

- Court's Own Motion
- Petitioner's Written/Oral Motion
- Respondent's Written/Oral Motion
- Allegations of Abuse and/or Neglect (§452.423.2 RSMo.)
- Order of Protection (§455.035 or §455.513 RSMo.)

The Court, in the best interests of the child(ren), _____,
hereby appoints _____ (Bar #: _____; Phone #: _____;
E-Mail: _____) pursuant to §452.423, §455.035, or
§455.513 RSMo., as Guardian Ad Litem (GAL). The GAL shall be the Legal
Representative of the child(ren)'s best interests throughout these proceedings.

GAL Selection Method

- Random Agreement of the Parties
- Order of Protection

Petitioner shall deposit \$_____ with the GAL as and for Guardian ad Litem fees and costs on account. Such fees and costs are subject to reallocation by the Court.

Respondent shall deposit \$_____ with the GAL as and for Guardian ad Litem fees and costs on account. Such fees and costs are subject to reallocation by the Court.

Upon receipt of this appointment, the GAL **shall** file their "Entry of Appearance and Acknowledgement of Obligation to Comply with the Missouri Supreme Court Standards of Guardians ad Litem" with the Court.

At the conclusion of this case, the GAL **shall** file an “Acknowledgement of Compliance” with this Court, indicating the GAL’s compliance with the Missouri Supreme Court Standards for Guardians ad Litem.

Prior to any hearing, the GAL shall: 1) Interview the child(ren), if appropriate; and, 2) Conduct all necessary interviews with persons having contact with, or knowledge of, the child(ren) in order to ascertain the child(ren)’s wishes, feelings, attachments, and attitudes.

The GAL may examine, cross-examine, subpoena witnesses, and offer testimony at any hearing in this cause.

The GAL shall be a party to this cause and shall be provided with copies of all pleadings, documents and reports relevant to the child(ren), and shall have access to all records of any agency or person relating to the child(ren) or the child(ren)’s family members. Any legal custodian of the child(ren) shall promptly execute authorization for release of information forms, as requested by the GAL.

The GAL shall comply with the Supreme Court’s Standards for Guardians ad Litem in all respects, including as follows:

- The GAL must be a lawyer licensed to practice law in the State of Missouri, must have completed the training required by the Guardian ad Litem Standards (“Standards”), and must act in accordance with the Supreme Court Rules of Professional Conduct (“Rules”). (See, GAL Standard 1.0.)
- The GAL’s caseload shall not impede the GAL’s ability to comply with the Standards, nor shall it affect the GAL’s ability to comply with the ethical standards of the Rules. (See, GAL Standard 2.0.)
- The GAL shall be guided by the best interests of the child(ren) in all matters and shall exercise independent judgment in formulating and presenting recommendations to the Court. (See, GAL Standard 3.0.)
- The GAL shall participate fully in each proceeding and examine or cross-examine witnesses when appropriate, so as to advocate a position designed to serve the best interests of the child(ren), utilizing information the GAL has obtained in the GAL’s capacity as Guardian ad Litem. (See, GAL Standard 4.0.)
- The GAL shall strive to make necessary arrangements to ensure that the child(ren) and the GAL have reasonable access to and contact with each other. (See, GAL Standard 5.0.)
- The GAL shall access all records relevant to the child(ren), the child(ren)’s placement or the child(ren)’s family members. (See, GAL Standard 6.0.)
- The GAL shall adhere to applicable statutes, rules and regulations relating to receipt and redisclosure of privileged information received as Guardian ad Litem. (See, GAL Standard 7.0.) *The GAL should maintain a file consistent with the Rules. The child(ren) is(are) not the owner of the GAL’s file. The Court has the sole authority to rule on any request concerning the handling or disposition of the GAL’s file. The GAL shall not provide their file to anyone, including the child(ren), absent an order of the Court.*

- The GAL shall review the progress of the child(ren)'s case and advocate for timely hearings, provision of necessary services and compliance with court orders. (See, GAL Standard 8.0.)
- The GAL shall explain to the child(ren), when appropriate, the court process, the role of the GAL, and the purpose of each court proceeding. (See, GAL Standard 9.0.)
- The GAL shall participate in and monitor service plans, parenting plans, proposed orders and staffings affecting the best interests of the child(ren), as appropriate. (See, GAL Standard 10.0.)
- The GAL shall participate actively and fully in all court proceedings. (See, GAL Standard 11.0.)
- The GAL shall strive to protect the interests of the child(ren) when the child(ren) is/are witness(es) in any judicial proceeding for which the GAL has been appointed and for which the GAL has received notice. The GAL shall strive to be present during all conferences between any counsel for a party and the child(ren) and for which the GAL has received notice. (See, GAL Standard 12.0.)
- The GAL shall make recommendations to the court when authorized by law or requested by the court on the basis of the evidence presented and consistent with the best interests of the child(ren). If the recommendations are inconsistent with the wishes of the child(ren), the GAL shall inform the court of the child(ren)'s wishes. (See, GAL Standard 13.0.)
- The GAL shall have completed all the Continuing Legal Education hours necessary to be and remain a Guardian ad Litem with this court. (See, GAL Standard 14.0.)

Recognizing the unique position that the GAL holds to represent and advocate for the child(ren)'s best interests, the Court hereby orders that no party shall harass, stalk, threaten, demean, intimidate, or abuse the GAL. Any party who willfully violates this order, or encourages another person to do so on their behalf, may be held in contempt of court. Contempt is punishable by fine and/or incarceration in the St. Louis County jail pursuant to §476.120 RSMo.

SO ORDERED:

Attorney for Petitioner / Bar #

Division _____

Attorney for Respondent / Bar #

Petitioner (*Pro Se*)

Respondent (*Pro Se*)

Address:

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Phone:

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E-Mail:

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Address:

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Phone:

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E-Mail:

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