

Rule 12(A) – Guardian ad Litem’s (G.A.L.’s)

12(A).1 This Court shall comply with the requirements of Ohio Superintendence Rule 48 and shall enforce the Rule’s requirements as the same pertains to the Court and all Guardian ad Litem’s.

12(A).2 The Court hereby establishes the position of Guardian ad Litem Clerk who shall ensure that the requirements of Super Rule 48 are maintained. In addition to the requirements of Super Rule 48, the Clerk shall:

- (A) establish a list in a random order and appoint G.A.L.’s from said list in an established order. The clerk shall keep track of the number of cases each G.A.L. is assigned to and make the assignment of cases as equitable as possible.
- (B) the G.A.L. clerk shall cause to be conducted a criminal and civil background check of all G.A.L.’s who are qualified by this court on and after March 1, 2009. The background check shall include an Ohio BCI and I check, Federal criminal background check, and a state and county criminal and civil background check for all states and counties in which the G.A.L. applicant has resided within the last 5 years. This information shall be maintained by the G.A.L. clerk in accordance with Rule 48 and shall be reviewed by the Administrative Judge.
- (C) during the month of March each year, the G.A.L. clerk shall review the file of each qualified G.A.L. and determine whether the G.A.L.’s have received all necessary trainings, all G.A.L.’s have filed the certification form (**Form Appendix A**), and review any complaints regarding the G.A.L.
- (D) the clerk shall immediately make the administrative judge aware of any complaints that have been filed against a G.A.L.

- 12(A).3** The administrative judge shall in its discretion act upon any complaint filed against a G.A.L. and take any action which the Judge deems necessary against the G.A.L., including dismissal from a particular case and termination as a court approved G.A.L. All complaints must be in writing and signed by the complainant. **(Form Appendix B)**
- 12(A).4** This Court hereby approves the following six (6) hour local training: Annual Conference on Promoting Healthy Attachments.
- 12(A).5** The Court shall pay attorney G.A.L.'s through the Public Defender Office at the customary rate for assigned counsel. Non-attorney G.A.L.'s shall be paid seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) per case (multiple cases, one (1) family, one (1) fee). Mileage shall also be paid in accordance with the customary rate established by the Belmont County Commissioners.

Appendix A

Guardian ad Litem Certification

I hereby certify that I am unaware of any circumstance that would disqualify me from serving as Guardian ad Litem.

I have complied with all requirements in Ohio Superintendence Rule 48.

I have attended the following Guardian ad Litem approved trainings:

Signed this ___ day of _____, 20__.

Guardian ad Litem

Appendix B

Guardian ad Litem Complaint Form

I, _____, hereby register the following complaint or concern against Court appointed Guardian ad Litem _____. This complaint is with regard to the Guardian ad Litem's duties in case number _____. I understand that this complaint or concern will be reviewed by the Administrative Judge, who may, in their sole discretion, act upon this information.

Signature

STATE OF OHIO

COUNTY OF BELMONT, SS:

Before me a Notary Public personally appeared _____, who being first duly cautioned and sworn, says the facts in the foregoing complaint are true.

Notary Public