



CUYAHOGA COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
DIVISION OF DOMESTIC RELATIONS

ANNUAL GUARDIAN AD LITEM COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

Guardian ad Litem Name: _____ Date: _____

Education & Training

During the last year, I completed the following education programs to satisfy the annual 6-hour continuing education requirement for GALs under Sup.R. 48.04(B)(4)(a-f) and 48.05(A)(3). At least three (3) of the required six (6) hours were through a live in-person or interactive webinar.

Note: Advanced education on the following topics is required:

- Basic human needs, stages of child development, and the impact of trauma.
- Communication skills, including but not limited to communication with children and adults, interviewing skills, methods of critical questioning, use of open-ended questions, understanding the perspective of a child, sensitivity, building trust, multicultural awareness, diversity, and confidentiality.
- Child abuse, neglect, dependency, unruliness, delinquency, and assessing risk and safety.
- Family and child issues, including but not limited to family dynamics, substance abuse and its effects, basic psychopathology for adults and children, and domestic violence and its effects, including assessing for lethality and safety.
- Legal processes, available community agencies and resources, methods of service, records checks, the role of a guardian ad litem in court, local resources and service practice, report content, mediation, and other types of dispute resolution processes.
- Any other topic that concerns the role of the guardian ad litem to help determine the best interest of the child.

Date	Program Title	Sponsor	# Hrs Completed	Live (In-Person/Webinar) or self-study	Advanced Education Topic

Please list any specialized training, education, or experience you have received that may be helpful when serving as a guardian ad litem: _____

Disqualification & Removal as a GAL

Check one:

I know of nothing that would disqualify me to serve as guardian ad litem.

The following may disqualify me to serve as guardian ad litem: _____

Please answer the following questions completely. Attach information on additional sheets if necessary.

Within the past year, have you been removed from any court’s guardian ad litem list or court-appointed counsel list if applicable? Yes No If yes, please state the reason for your removal.

State what actions you have taken to correct the situation that caused your removal.

For Attorneys Only

Within the past year, have you been disciplined or suspended from the practice of law in Ohio or in any other state or the District of Columbia? Yes No If yes, state the reason for the discipline or suspension and the dates of such action.

Are you currently in good standing with the Supreme Court of Ohio? Yes No

If no, explain: _____

Background Information

Within the past year, have you been convicted of any felonies or misdemeanors? Yes No

If yes, identify the case numbers for each case and explain these charges on a separate attachment.

Within the past year, have you been arrested, indicted, or charged with any offense in any action that involved an abused, neglected, or dependent child; a violation of R.C. 2919.25; or any sexually oriented offense?

Yes No If yes, identify the case numbers for each case and explain these charges on a separate attachment.

Within the past year, have you been named as a respondent in an action for a civil protection order or charged with domestic violence in any court? Yes No If yes, identify the case numbers for each case and explain these charges on a separate attachment.

Within the past year, has a referral been made to any children's services agency alleging that you abused or neglected a child? Yes No If yes, identify the allegations made in each referral and whether the allegations were substantiated, unsubstantiated, or indicated, and state any other findings made on a separate attachment.

Within the past year, other than as guardian ad litem, are you presently, or have you been a party in a civil lawsuit in the past 5 years? Yes No If yes, identify the court in which you were a party, the case numbers for each case, and a summary of the actions on a separate attachment.

Certification

I certify that I maintain professional liability insurance in the amounts of at least \$100,000.00 per occurrence and \$300,000.00 in the aggregate. I have attached a copy of my certificate as proof of coverage.

I certify that all of the above information is accurate and am unaware of any circumstances that would disqualify me from serving as guardian ad litem in the Cuyahoga Domestic Relations Court.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

ANNUAL COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST (If any of the information listed below is missing, your application will be rejected and returned)

- Complete and sign Annual Compliance Statement
- Attach transcripts and/or certificates for continuing education credit
- Attach program descriptions continuing education credit
- Attach proof of liability insurance