



CIRCUIT COURT OF JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI
FAMILY COURT DIVISION
625 EAST 26TH STREET
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64108-2719

POLICY & PROCEDURE

Issued by: Director of Office of the Guardian ad Litem – Family Court

Topic: **Policy No. 1030-03 -- GAL Standard 3 – Independent Judgment**

Effective Date: July 7, 2015

New:

Revised:

Rescinds:

Reviewed: X

POLICY:

The Office of the Guardian ad Litem (OGAL) will recommend what is in the best interest of the child. OGAL shall exercise independent judgment on what constitutes best interest.

PROCEDURES:

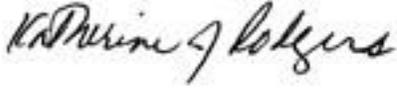
OGAL will recommend what is in the best interest of the child. OGAL shall exercise independent judgment on what constitutes best interest.

- a. OGAL will not act as the lawyer for a child in actions where OGAL has been appointed as Guardian ad Litem (GAL).
- b. the assigned GAL attorney may make the wishes of a child known to the court, if the client has given permission to share that information, but will advocate for the child's best interest, rather than the child's personal preferences.
- c. OGAL will consider the following in making a best interest determination: the child's personal preferences, school records, mental health records of child, parents and proposed caregivers, criminal and child abuse/neglect records of parents and proposed caregivers, substance abuse history of the parents, children and proposed caregivers, therapy reports and reports from any other service providers, social worker reports, interviews with the child, parents and proposed caregivers, personal observations of the interactions between the children and parents or other proposed caregivers and any other information deemed to be relevant.

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REVISIONS: The proponent for this policy is the Director of the Office of Guardian ad Litem. If you have recommended changes or want to report errors, send your suggestions to the Director of Guardian ad Litem, Family Justice Center, 625 East 26th Street, Kansas City, MO 64108.

REVIEW DATE: May 1, 2023



May 1, 2021

Kathy J. Rodgers
Director of Office of the Guardian ad Litem-Family Court

Date

APPLICABLE STANDARDS:

Juvenile Officer Performance Standard: 1.9A, B

CC: Deputy Court Administrator – Family Court Division