



CIRCUIT COURT OF JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI  
FAMILY COURT DIVISION  
625 EAST 26<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
KANSAS CITY MO 64108-2719

**POLICY & PROCEDURE**

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

Topic: **Policy No. 1030-11 -- GAL Standard 11 – Participation in Court Proceedings**

Effective Date: July 7, 2015

New:                      Revised:                      Rescinds:                      Reviewed: June 1, 2018

**POLICY:**

The Office of the Guardian ad Litem (OGAL), shall participate in all court proceedings in cases in which the guardian ad litem is appointed. The guardian ad litem shall not waive the presence of the child at court proceedings without good cause. The Guardian ad Litem (GAL) shall actively and fully participate in all court proceedings. The guardian ad litem shall present evidence, file pleadings, and call witnesses when appropriate to ensure all information relevant to the child's best interests is presented to the court for consideration.

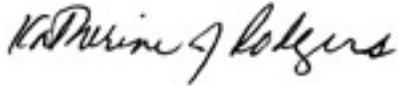
**PROCEDURES:**

1. The assigned GAL attorney shall ensure that the court receives all information relevant to the child's best interests.
2. The assigned GAL attorney will coordinate with the non-attorney staff to ensure that all necessary documents are received in order to be available to present to the court.
3. The assigned GAL attorney or non-attorney staff will communicate with service providers to make sure that their information if available to the court.
4. The assigned GAL attorney or non-attorney staff will do their best to have other individuals present so to avoid as much as possible the necessity of being called as a witness.
5. The assigned GAL attorney shall make recommendations as to placement, visitation and services at every hearing as more fully detailed in Policy 1030-13.

Policy No. 1030-11 – GAL Standard 11 - Participation in Court Proceedings

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 26<sup>th</sup> Street, Kansas City, MO 64108.

REVIEW DATE: July 1, 2019



June 1, 2018

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

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Date

APPLICABLE STANDARDS:

None

CC: Deputy Court Administrator – Family Court Division