



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. 1030-17 -- Recommendation for Release of Jurisdiction**

Effective Date: July 7, 2015

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

POLICY:

The Office of the Guardian ad Litem (OGAL) will promptly recommend release of jurisdiction when permanency has been achieved and file a motion to release if appropriate. Such permanency can include, but is not limited to, reunification, adoption and guardianship. OGAL may also recommend release of jurisdiction if a child is successfully living on his/her own.

When considering the recommendation for release of jurisdiction, the assigned Guardian ad Litem (GAL) attorney shall consider the following:

1. If adoption or reunification has been achieved
 - a. Length of time at home
 - b. Continued participation and progress in services
 - c. Positive home adjustment
 - d. Positive school reports
 - e. Ability of family to continue to access needed services without ongoing court supervision.
2. If Independent Living has been achieved
 - a. Age of child
 - b. Ability to continue education
 - c. Ongoing financial support necessary
 - d. Knowledge of community resources
 - e. Stable living environment which will continue if released
 - f. Ability to provide basic needs, ie, medical, water, heat, electricity, clothing, food
 - g. Support systems
 - h. Employment

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In determining if release of jurisdiction is the appropriate recommendation, the assigned attorney GAL shall consider reports from social services' workers, therapists, mentors, foster parents, mental health records, school reports, medical records and other with relevant information. The assigned GAL attorney or non attorney staff, at the direction of the assigned GAL attorney, shall interview relevant service providers, the children and the caregivers of the children.

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: July 1, 2019



June 1, 2018

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

Date

APPLICABLE STANDARDS:
Juvenile Officer Performance Standard 5.21

CC: Deputy Court Administrator – Family Court Division