

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI
FAMILY COURT DIVISION

IN RE: 16th Judicial Circuit Plan for Implementation ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER: 11-15
of the Guardian ad litem Standards in Missouri
Juvenile and Family Court Matters
(September 1, 2011 Standards)

ORDER

In recognizing that Missouri children have the right to adequate and effective representation in child welfare cases, the 16th Judicial Circuit of Missouri implements the Guardian ad litem Standards in Missouri Juvenile and Family Court Matters (hereinafter referred to as "The Standards"), effective September 1, 2011.

1. Selection/Appointment of Guardians ad Litem. The selection and appointment of Guardians ad litem shall be made from a list of qualified attorneys maintained by the Deputy Court Administrator's Office – Family Court Division. The list shall be published, updated as necessary, and posted to both the Circuit and Family Court's web sites. Appointments from the list shall be made pursuant to local administrative orders of the Circuit and Family Courts and Local Rule 21.6.1.
2. Approved List of Guardians ad Litem. The list of approved Guardians ad litem shall be maintained by the Deputy Court Administrator – Family Court and shall be available to all judicial officers and the public through posting on the Family Court and Circuit Court web sites. All attorneys who meet the minimum qualifications as outlined in the Standards and agree to comply with the Standards may be placed on the approved list of Guardians ad litem (see Training and Reporting Requirements below). Guardians ad litem serve at the pleasure of the Court and may be removed from the approved list at any time if, in the judgment of the Family Court Administrative Judge, it is in the best interest of the Court to do so. Guardians ad litem appointed for minor parents (17 years and under) shall be appointed from the approved list. Guardians ad litem appointed for incompetent parents who are 18 years and over shall be appointed from the Missouri Bar attorney list provided to Family Court.
3. Training and Reporting Requirements for Guardians ad Litem. Guardian ad litem training will meet the training requirements of the Standards and may be provided by any qualified entity approved by the Missouri Bar for providing continuing legal education training and approved by the Administrative Judge of the Family Court Division.
 - a. The training shall include, but not be limited to those topics listed and with the frequency listed in Standard 14.0 of The Standards.
 - b. **Initial Report - New Guardians ad litem (and current Guardians ad litem who did not submit an affidavit before September 1, 2011).** When desiring to serve as a Guardian ad litem, attorneys shall file an initial affidavit (see attached) with

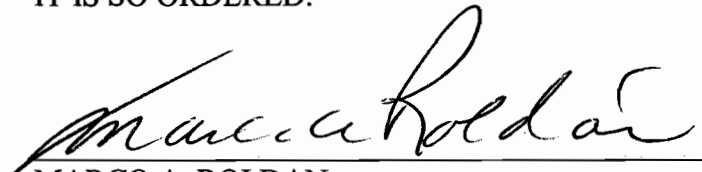
the Deputy Court Administrator, Family Court Division, 625 East 26th Street, Kansas City, MO 64108 indicating that they have either:

- i. completed eight hours of specialized training as required by Standard 14.0, or
 - ii. completed at least six hours of Guardian ad litem training within the five years prior to the date of the adoption of these standards; **and**
 - iii. agree to comply with the Standards.
- c. **Subsequent/Annual Reports – All Guardians ad litem.** Attorneys shall file an annual affidavit showing proof of training as required in Standard 14.0 (three hours of specialized training within the last 12 months) by July 31 of each year beginning with July 31, 2012. Form 1, "Missouri Minimum Continuing Legal Education – Attorney's Annual Report of Compliance" may be used to satisfy this requirement by filing a copy (including both sides of Form 1) with the Deputy Court Administrator, Family Court Division, 625 East 26th Street, Kansas City, MO 64108. (NOTE: in the event that the course title is not obviously related to the GAL training required by the standards, the filing attorney shall include an explanation of the course in his or her affidavit.)

It is further ordered that Administrative Order 11-06 is set aside and held for naught.

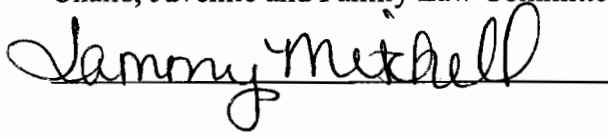
IT IS SO ORDERED.

November 30, 2011
DATE


MARCO A. ROLDAN
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE
FAMILY COURT DIVISION

Copies to:
Court Administrator
Family Court Judges and Commissioners
Deputy Court Administrator/Family Court
Juvenile Officer
Family Court Directors
Assistant Legal Counsel/Family Court
Office of the Guardian ad litem
CASA Project
The Eastern Jackson County Bar Association
The Jackson County Bar Association
The Hispanic Bar Association
Office of the Public Defender

Children's Division, Jackson County offices
Division of Legal Services (DSS), Jackson County office
Chairs, Juvenile and Family Law Committees, KCMBA

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jamony Mitchell". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

