## OFFICE OF THE GUARDIAN AD LITEM Practice Tips

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The Office of the Guardian ad Litem (OGAL) is appointed as the guardian ad litem for most of the children involved in the abuse and neglect cases filed by the Juvenile Officer. The OGAL attorneys speak on behalf of the children at all hearings. It is OGAL's responsibility to recommend what it believes is in the best interest of each child that it represents. This is not necessarily the same as what the child wishes. Part of that recommendation is based on the belief that each child is entitled to a safe, permanent home, whether that is with the child's parents or with an adoptive family or other permanent placement. OGAL staff also advocate for children at various meetings held by the Children's Division. Call the office number and the secretary will be able to tell you the name of

Call the office number and the secretary will be able to tell you the name of the particular attorney who is handling a matter. Attorneys will not be able to discuss the case with parents who have attorneys. If you are a parent and have particular questions about your case, you should call your attorney.