



**STATE OF FLORIDA
TWENTIETH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
Guardian ad Litem Program**

Serving Charlotte, Collier, Hendry, Glades
and Lee Counties



Alan Abramowitz
Executive Director
Statewide Guardian Ad Litem Program

Holly Rodriguez
Circuit Director
Twentieth Judicial Circuit

**GUARDIAN AD LITEM CODE OF CONDUCT
2020**

Guardian ad Litem Staff and Volunteers shall:

1. diligently represent and be guided solely by the best interests of the child;
2. hold confidential all information obtained in the course of service as a guardian ad litem, as required by law and Program Standards;
3. report any new incident of child abuse or neglect to his or her supervisor and the abuse hotline;
4. monitor the child regularly, including visiting the child every 30 days at a minimum, unless an alternative visitation schedule has been approved according to Program Standards;
5. work within the team model concept as stated in the Program Standards, while respecting each advocacy team member's contribution to the progress of the case and following all team decisions made in behalf of the best interests of the child;
6. maintain at a minimum, monthly contact with each advocacy team member and comply with all Program Standards and guidelines that relate to court reports and required case documentation;
7. obtain approval from his or her supervisor before submitting any document to the court or other parties;
8. notify the circuit director if the guardian ad litem (GAL) or any member of the GAL's family becomes involved in a case with allegations of child abuse or neglect;
9. advise the circuit director if he or she is charged with or convicted of a criminal offense; if the staff or GAL is an attorney, he or she must advise the circuit director if he or she becomes the subject of a complaint registered with the Florida Bar;
10. only take actions in the best interest of the child that remain within the scope of a GAL's roles and responsibilities;
11. uphold and comply with all of the Program's Standards and Guidelines as well as any local circuit program guidelines;
12. **not** practice, condone, facilitate or participate in any form of discrimination on the basis of race, color, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion, ethnicity, marital status, political belief, mental or physical handicap or any other preference, personal characteristic, condition or status;
13. **not** accept a fee for services as a GAL while serving as a GAL for the Program;
14. **not** engage in any ex parte communication with a judge.

Charlotte County
18500 Murdock Circle, Suite B203
Port Charlotte, Florida 33948
941-613-3233
FAX: 941-613-3252

Collier County
Collier County Justice Center
3315 Tamiami Trail E., Ste. 601
Naples, Florida 34112
239-252-8432
FAX: 239-252-2743

Glades and Hendry County
25 Hickpochee Ave.
LaBelle, FL 33975
863-674-4190
FAX: 863-674-4189

Lee County
Lee County Justice Center
1700 Monroe St.
Fort Myers, Florida 33901
239-533-KIDS
FAX: 239-485-1110

**The Florida Guardian ad Litem Program is a partnership of community advocates and professional staff
providing a powerful voice on behalf of Florida's abused and neglected children.**



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~ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM~

Each Circuit Director, in consultation with the Director of Operations, may determine whether failure to comply with the Code of Conduct will result in discipline action including discharge from the Program. If the Circuit Director determines that action is required, the Circuit Director will provide written notice of the incident and the action taken to the Director of Operations.

All volunteers certified by the Guardian ad Litem Program serve at the pleasure of the Program and may be discharged with or without cause. These Standards are not intended to confer upon the volunteer any protected property interest or contractual right.

The Guardian ad Litem Program prides itself in providing the children we serve with a consistent individual who will advocate for the children’s best interest throughout the children’s involvement in the dependency process. We ask that in consideration for the training received and most importantly in order to provide stability and consistency to the children we represent, that every certified volunteer commits to their case for the life of that case (approximately 12 to 18 months).

I understand that failure to comply with the Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action up to and including discharge from the program.

I have read and understand the Guardian ad Litem “CODE OF CONDUCT.”

Print name

Signature

Date

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