

# Guardian *ad Litem* Project

A Project of the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association  
9300 Quincy Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor § Cleveland, OH 44106  
Phone 216-443-3377 § E-mail [info@galproject.org](mailto:info@galproject.org)

## Family Drug Court Policy

The Guardian ad Litem Project maintains a limited list of guardians ad litem for children appointed on Family Drug Court cases. All guardians ad litem for children appointed on Family Drug Court cases shall meet the following qualifications and perform the following duties in addition to the duties set forth in the Court's Local Rules, Guardian ad Litem Guidelines, the Ohio Revised Code, or the Rules of Superintendence:

1. Be a qualified guardian ad litem pursuant to Guardian ad Litem Project policies and Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court Local Rules.
2. Receive a minimum of three (3) hours of Advanced Training on the Family Drug Court policies, procedures, and drug treatment and recovery, and attend subsequent Advanced Trainings provided by the Guardian ad Litem Project or the Court.
3. Observe a minimum of one (1) drug court session before accepting Family Drug Court guardian ad litem appointments.
4. Schedule a guardian ad litem's attendance at Family Drug Court staffings<sup>1</sup> and hearings in coordination with all other Family Drug Court guardians ad litem to ensure that a guardian ad litem for the children is present for all staffings and hearings.
5. Prior to attending Family Drug Court staffings and hearings, discuss with all other Family Drug Court guardians ad litem any issues or concerns regarding all cases being heard during that session.
6. Provide reports to the Court as required by the Court's Local Rules, Guardian ad Litem Guidelines, the Ohio Revised Code, or the Rules of Superintendence.

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<sup>1</sup>

Family Drug Court "staffings" are meetings scheduled immediately prior to Family Drug Court Hearings. At these staffings, Family Drug Court Team Members report on participants' progress.

7. At all Family Drug Court staffings attended, take notes on cases heard and reviewed during the guardian ad litem's assigned session.
8. Distribute notes taken during Family Drug Court staffings to all Family Drug Court guardians ad litem.
9. Review all notes taken by other guardians ad litem at Family Drug Court staffings.
10. Attend all adjudicatory and dispositional hearings for the guardian ad litem's assigned cases.