
MEMORANDUM

To: Butler County Bar Association Members and Court Parties

From: Judge Barbara Schneider Carter, Domestic Relations Court

Subject: Guardian *ad litem* Fee Increase

Date: September 19, 2018

Domestic Relations Court is announcing an increase in Guardian *ad litem* (GAL) fees. Eligible guardians who have been approved and assigned through this Court shall be compensated at a rate of **one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125.00) per hour** for both in-court and out-of-court billable time. The Court may order a minimum deposit of **twelve hundred dollars (\$1,200.00)** to be used to pay for guardian services.

The following Local Rules have been revised as outlined below to reflect these fee adjustments. Any comments on these changes may be forwarded to Annette Lolli, Court Administrator, at lollia@butlercountyohio.org on or before **October 19, 2018**.

“DR 15. Court Costs

(G) When a request for a Guardian *ad litem* has been granted, the Court may order the appropriate party or parties to deposit **\$1,200.00 (one thousand two hundred dollars)** with the Clerk of Courts as security toward the payment of guardian fees. Upon depletion of the deposit, the Court may order the deposit of additional monies.”

“DR 43. Appointment of Guardian *ad litem* (GAL):

(A)

(2) Procedures

(a) The Court shall appoint the GAL from a rotating list of eligible candidates maintained by the Domestic Relations Court.

(i) The Court shall compile a list of candidates after screening applicants.

(ii) Any attorney interested in being a GAL shall submit a resume outlining the requirements indicated in this rule to the Administration Office of the Court.

(b) Compensation will be at the rate of **one hundred twenty five** dollars (**\$125.00**) per hour for both in-court and out-of-court billable time.

(c) The Court may order the payment of a minimum deposit of **twelve hundred** dollars (**\$1,200.00**) through the Clerk of Courts, to be used to pay for GAL services. Unless the deposit has been waived by the Court, the Court shall appoint the GAL once the deposit has been made. The Court may require additional deposits during the pendency of the matter. . . .”

The Court is taking this opportunity to seek out eligible attorneys in good standing who are interested in being guardians for Domestic Relations. The Court is welcoming attorneys who wish to provide this important service to the children of Butler County.

Per Rule 48 of the Rules of Superintendence, specific responsibilities, training requirements, and report requirements are outlined for eligibility. The complete rule may be found on the Supreme Court of Ohio website:

<http://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/LegalResources/Rules/superintendence/Superintendence.pdf>

If you are interested in becoming a Guardian *ad litem* for Domestic Relations Court, please contact Annette Lolli, Court Administrator at lolli@butlercountyohio.org.

Thank you.