



FILED
SUPERIOR COURT
THURSTON COUNTY, WA

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Linda Myhre Enlow
Thurston County Clerk

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Superior Court of Washington, County of Thurston

In the Guardianship of:

Hazel Smith

Respondent/s (*minors/children*)

No. 21-4-0577-34

Order Appointing Guardian ad Litem or
Court Visitor

GAL Appointed (ORAPGL)

Visitor Appointed (ORAPCV)

Clerks Action: 10

Order Appointing Guardian ad Litem or Court Visitor

Use this form to appoint a GAL or Court Visitor in a Minor Guardianship Case.

1. Children needing Guardian ad Litem (GAL) or Court Visitor (Visitor)

A GAL or Visitor should be appointed in this case. The children are listed below:

Child's name	Age	Child's name	Age
1. Hazel Smith	8	2.	
3.		4.	

2. The court has authority to make this appointment under the *Uniform Guardianship Act 11.130.*

The court **must** appoint a Visitor because: (*check all that apply*)

one or more of the children is 12 or older and does **not** have a lawyer.

the petitioner says a parent waived their right to notice.

the petitioner says they were unable to serve a parent.

The court should appoint a GAL because the children's interest otherwise would not be adequately represented.

The court orders:

3. (GAL / Visitor's name): Cynthia Johnson is appointed
 Guardian ad Litem Court Visitor in this case.

4. Rights

All parties must serve the GAL or Visitor with:

- notice of any court hearing or proposed agreement involving these children, and
- copies of all documents they file in this case.

The court clerk must give the GAL or Visitor free certified copies of this Order upon request.

5. Court Visitor's duties

Does not apply.

A GAL shall perform the duties of a Visitor until the Visitor program is established.

The Visitor must go to all court hearings and pretrial conferences for this case that are related to the children, unless the court says otherwise.

The Visitor is ordered to investigate and file a report on the issues checked below. (check all that apply):

Meet with the minor/s and explain the rights outlined in the Notice of Hearing. Find out the children's views about the guardianship or guardian. Inform the court if the minor wants access to all documents filed in this case.

Decide if a parent who was not served can be located with reasonable effort.

Interview the petitioner and the minor.

Confirm whether a parent consents to guardianship.

Other issues about the standby guardian petition.

Other: Investigate substance abuse + mental health issues/allegations of Mother; DV cases of Father;

6. GAL's duties

Does not apply.

The Guardian ad Litem's (GAL's) duties include:

- Inform the court about, and represent, the needs and best interests of the children.
- Protect the legal interests of the children in this case;
- Explain (to the extent possible) the legal papers and correspondence related to this case to the children;
- Participate in court hearings related to the GAL's duties through written reports and supplemental oral reports; and
- Follow all court orders and go to all meetings and court hearings related to the GAL's duties or scope of appointment.

Other (specify): _____

7. Report

The GAL/Visitor's report must include facts about the issues listed in 5 or 6 above.

Deadline! Unless the court extends the deadline, the report must be filed and served on all parties at least 10 days prior to any hearing requiring a report.

8. Access to the children and information

The GAL/Visitor is allowed reasonable access to the children, and to all records and people with information that affects the children, including:

- Child care providers
- Physical and mental health care providers
- Schools and other educational institutions
- Law enforcement agencies, Child Protective Services, and the Department of Children, Youth, and Family (or equivalent agencies, if outside Washington)

Note: agencies may withhold or black out legally protected parts of requested information.

9. Release of information

The signatures of parties or children age 12 or older below mean that they give permission to the agencies and professionals listed in **8** above to share information about themselves and their children with the GAL/Visitor.

10. Confidentiality

The GAL/Visitor will:

- Have access to all Superior Court and Juvenile Court files related to his/her duties, including sealed and confidential documents. *Exception:* The GAL/Visitor will not have access to information sealed under RCW 13.50.050(7);
- Keep confidential any sealed and confidential information (unless his or her duties as GAL/Visitor require otherwise); and
- Tell the court if his/her report includes any sealed or confidential information.

The parties (or their lawyers, if any) have the right to inspect and copy the GAL/Visitor file, including the names and addresses of everyone the GAL/Visitor consulted. *Exception:* information in the GAL/Visitor's file that is confidential by law or sealed by a court shall **not** be shared with the parties or their lawyers.

11. Fees

The GAL/Visitor's hourly fee is \$ _____. The GAL/Visitor may not charge more than a total of \$ _____ without court review and approval.

The GAL/Visitor's fees will be paid as follows (*check one*):

- _____ % paid by Petitioner _____
- _____ % paid by Parent _____
- _____ % paid by Parent _____

100 % or \$ _____ paid by the County at public expense. However, if the parties' financial circumstances change, the court may order the parties to pay the fees according to their ability to pay.

Other: _____

Billing Process:

- The GAL must file an itemized statement of time and expenses with the court and provide a copy to the person/s or entity responsible for payment.

