IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF KITSAP

In re Adeline Feulner: Heather Wood, petitioner And Lenard Feulner, respondent	**Case No: 07-3-01713-1** **MOTION AND DECLARATION REQUESTING CLARIFICATION OF GUARDIAN AD LITEM AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY REGARDING DISCOVERY**

MOTION

COMES NOW Nancy Tarbell, Guardian ad Litem, appearing pro se, and moves the Court for CLARIFICATION OF GAL AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY REGARDING DISCOVERY REQUESTS. This Motion is supported by the court file and attached declaration

POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

A Title 26 Guardian ad Litem is authorized and guided by various, sometime conflicting,

Legal directives. In the current issues of discovery and the varying types of access accorded the parties the following points and authorities are relevant:

> RCW 26. 09.220 (2) In preparing the report concerning a child, the investigator or person appointed under subsection (1) of this section may consult any person who may have information about the child and the potential parenting or custodian arrangements. Upon order of the court, the investigator or person appointed under subsection (1) of this section may refer the child to professional personnel for diagnosis. The investigator or person appointed under subsection (1) of this section

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may consult with and obtain information from medical, psychiatric, or other expert persons who have served the child in the past without obtaining the consent of the parent or the child's custodian; but the child's consent must be obtained if the child has reached the age of twelve, unless the court finds that the child lacks mental capacity to consent. If the requirements of subsection (3) of this section are fulfilled, the report by the investigator or person appointed under subsection (1) of this section may be received in evidence at the hearing.

(3) The investigator or person appointed under subsection (1) of this section shall provide his or her report to counsel and to any party not represented by counsel at least ten days prior to the hearing unless a shorter time is ordered by the court for good cause shown. The investigator or person appointed under subsection (1) of this section **shall make available to counsel and to any party not represented by counsel his or her file of underlying data and reports, complete texts of diagnostic reports made to the investigator or appointed person pursuant to the provisions of subsection (2) of this section, and the names and addresses of all persons whom he or she has consulted.** Any party to the proceeding may call the investigator or person appointed under subsection (1) of this section and any person whom the investigator or appointed person has consulted for cross-examination. A party may not waive the right of cross-examination prior to the hearing.

Note "make available"..."file of underlying data and reports"...complete texts of diagnostic reports.." I take this to mean that the UAs and the drug/alcohol assessments directly related to the GAL court order should be copied and provided to the parties. As well as the names and addresses of those consulted. Is this correct?

RCW 26.12.180 All information, records, and reports obtained or created by a guardian ad litem, court-appointed special advocate, or investigator under this title shall be discoverable pursuant **to statute and court rule**. The guardian ad litem, court-appointed special advocate, or investigator shall not release private or confidential information to any nonparty except pursuant to a court order signed by a judge. The guardian ad litem, court-appointed special advocate, or investigator may share private or confidential information with experts or staff he

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or she has retained as necessary to perform the duties of guardian ad litem, court-appointed special advocate, or investigator. Any expert or staff retained are subject to the confidentiality rules governing the guardian ad litem, court-appointed special advocate, or investigator. Nothing in this section shall be interpreted to authorize disclosure of guardian ad litem records in personal injury actions.

Washington State Superior Court Rules 28-30 Depositions and discovery

CR 28 (in part) PERSONS BEFORE WHOM DEPOSITIONS MAY BE TAKEN (-) Within the State. Depositions within the state may be taken before the following officers: (1) Court Commissioners. [Reserved. See RCW 2.24.040(9) and (10).] (2) Superior Courts. [Reserved. See RCW 2.28.010(7).] (3) Judicial Officers. [Reserved. See RCW 2.28.060.] (4) Judges of Supreme and Superior Courts. [Reserved. See RCW 2.28.080(3).] (5) Inferior Judicial Officers. [Reserved. See RCW 2.28.090.] (6) Notaries Public. [Reserved. See RCW 5.28.010 and 42.44.010.] (7) Special Commissions. [Reserved. See RCW 11.20.030.

CR 29 STIPULATIONS REGARDING DISCOVERY PROCEDURE Unless the court orders otherwise, the parties may by written stipulation (1) provide that depositions may be taken before any person, at any time or place, upon any notice and in any manner and when so taken may be used like other depositions, and (2) modify the procedures provided by these rules for other methods of discover.

CR 30 is extensive and attached.

Washington State Superior Court Rules;

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(p) Maintain documentation. A guardian ad litem shall maintain documentation to substantiate recommendations and conclusions and shall keep records of actions taken by the guardian ad litem. **Except as prohibited or protected by law, and consistent with rule 2(n), this information shall be made available for review on written request of a party or the court on request.** Costs may be imposed for such requests.

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(f) Access to records. Except as limited by law or unless good cause is shown to the court, upon receiving a copy of the order appointing a guardian ad litem, any person or agency, including but not limited to any hospital, school, child care provider, organization, department of social and health services, doctor, health care provider, mental health provider, chemical health program, psychologist, psychiatrist, or law enforcement agency, shall permit a guardian ad litem to inspect and copy any and all records and interview personnel relating to the proceeding for which a guardian ad litem is appointed.

(h) Additional rights and powers under RCW 13.34 or RCW 26.26. In every case in which a guardian ad litem is a party to the case pursuant to RCW 13.34 or RCW 26.26, a guardian ad litem shall have the rights and powers set forth below. These rights and powers are subject to all applicable statutes and court rules.

(1) File documents and respond to discovery. A guardian ad litem shall have the right to file pleadings, motions, notices memoranda, briefs, and other documents, and **may, subject to the trial court's discretion engage in and respond to discovery.**

ARGUMENT

The RCWs and GALR construct clearly indicates that the GAL file shall be "made available" for "review". I see nothing that indicates copying except, perhaps, RCW 26. 09.220 pertaining to the drug/alcohol UAs and assessments directed by the court; "her file of underlying data and reports, complete texts of diagnostic reports made to the investigator)

Regarding the formal discovery authorized normally under CR 29-30, it APPEARS to be authorized for response by the GAL ONLY "subject to the trial court's discretion (to)...respond to discovery".

I read this all to mean that I can only provide to the parties the opportunity to "review" my file and that no copies are to be forthcoming.

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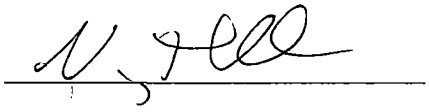
I request that the court allow my file to be "made available" to "review" and NOT to copy in any form and that the Court NOT allow the Guardian ad Litem to respond to discovery. I need clarification as to whether/how to respond to the Subpoena Duces Tecum and to the Oral deposition. I will be available at trial for examination as that is required of me as Guardian ad Litem.

The efforts alone to respond to providing physical copies, or even electronic copies, of the 460 plus emails totally defeats me. I agree to sit with my file and allow either party to review it.

I also renew my request for an attorney to be provided as there have been promises of Federal review and further actions.

Respectfully submitted this 19th day of April 2024.



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CR 30
DEPOSITIONS UPON ORAL EXAMINATION

(a) When Depositions May Be Taken. After the summons and a copy of the complaint are served, or the complaint is filed, whichever shall first occur, any party may take the testimony of any person, including a party, by deposition upon oral examination. Leave of court, granted with or without notice, must be obtained only if the plaintiff seeks to take a deposition prior to the expiration of 30 days after service of the summons and complaint upon any defendant or service made under rule 4(e), except that leave is not required:

(1) if a defendant has served a notice of taking deposition or otherwise sought discovery; or

(2) if special notice is given as provided in subsection (b)(2) of this rule. The attendance of witnesses may be compelled by subpoena as provided in rule 45. The deposition of a person confined in prison may be taken only by leave of court on such terms as the court prescribes.

(b) Notice of Examination: General Requirements; Special Notice; Nonstenographic Recording; Production of Documents and Things; Deposition of Organization; Video Recording.

(1) A party desiring to take the deposition of any person upon oral examination shall give reasonable notice in writing of not less than 5 days pursuant to CR 6 to every other party to the action and to the deponent, if not a party or a managing agent of a party. Notice to a deponent who is not a party or a managing agent of a party may be given by mail or by any means reasonably likely to provide actual notice. The notice shall state the time and place for taking the deposition and the name and address of each person to be examined, if known, and, if the name is not known, a general description sufficient to identify the deponent or the particular class or group to which the deponent belongs. If a subpoena duces tecum is to be served on the person to be examined, the designation of the materials to be produced as set forth in the subpoena shall be attached to or included in the notice. A party seeking to compel the attendance of a deponent who is not a party or a managing agent of a party must serve a subpoena on that deponent in accordance with rule 45. Failure to give 5 days, notice to a deponent who is not a party or a managing agent of a party may be grounds for the imposition of sanctions in favor of the deponent, but shall not constitute grounds for quashing the subpoena.

(2) Leave of court is not required for the taking of a deposition by plaintiff if the notice

(A) states that the person to be examined is about to go out of the state and will be unavailable for examination unless the person's deposition is taken before expiration of the 30-day period, and

(B) sets forth facts to support the statement. The plaintiff's attorney shall sign the notice, and the attorney's signature constitutes a certification by the attorney that to the best of the attorney's knowledge, information, and belief the statement and supporting facts are true. The sanctions provided by rule 11 are applicable to the certification.

If a party shows that when the party was served with notice under this subsection (b)(2) the party was unable through the exercise of diligence to obtain counsel to represent him at the taking of the deposition, the deposition may not be used against the party.

(3) The court may for cause shown enlarge or shorten the time for taking the deposition.

(4) The parties may stipulate in writing or the court may upon motion order that the testimony at a deposition be recorded by other than stenographic means. The stipulation or the order shall designate the person before whom the deposition shall be taken, the manner of recording, preserving, and filing the deposition, and may include other provisions to assure that

the recorded testimony will be accurate and trustworthy. A party may arrange to have a stenographic transcription made at the party's own expense. Any objections under section (c), any changes made by the witness, the witness's signature identifying the deposition as the witness's own or the statement of the officer that is required if the witness does not sign, as provided in section (e), and the certification of the officer required by section (f) shall be set forth in a writing to accompany a deposition recorded by nonstenographic means.

(5) The notice to a party deponent may be accompanied by a request made in compliance with rule 34 for the production of documents and tangible things at the taking of the deposition. The procedure of rule 34 shall apply to the request, including the time established by rule 34(b) for the party to respond to the request.

(6) A party may in a notice and in a subpoena name as the deponent a public or private corporation or a partnership or association or governmental agency and designate with reasonable particularity the matters on which examination is requested. In that event the organization so named shall designate one or more officers, directors, or managing agents, or other persons who consent to testify on its behalf, and may set forth, for each person designated, the matters known on which the deponent will testify. A subpoena shall advise a nonparty organization of its duty to make such a designation. The persons so designated shall testify as to the matters known or reasonably available to the organization. This subsection (b)(6) does not preclude taking a deposition by any other procedure authorized in these rules.

(7) The parties may stipulate in writing or the court may upon motion order that a deposition be taken by telephone or by other electronic means. For the purposes of this rule and rules 37(a)(1), 37(b)(1), and 45(d), a deposition taken by telephone or by other electronic means is taken at the place where the deponent is to answer the propounded questions.

(8) *Video recording of depositions.*

(A) Any party may video record the deposition of any party or witness without leave of court provided that written notice is served on all parties not less than 20 days before the deposition date, and specifically states that the deposition will be video recorded. Failure to so state shall preclude the use of video recording equipment at the deposition, absent agreement of the parties or court order.

(B) No party may video record a deposition within 120 days of the later of the date of filing or service of the lawsuit, absent agreement of the parties or court order.

(C) On motion of a party made prior to the deposition, the court shall order that a video recorded deposition be postponed or begun subject to being continued, on such terms as are just, if the court finds that the deposition is to be taken before the moving party has had an adequate opportunity to prepare, by discovery deposition of the deponent or other means, for cross examination of the deponent.

(D) Unless otherwise stipulated to by the parties, the expense of video recording shall be borne by the noting party and shall not be taxed as costs. Any party, at that party's expense, may obtain a copy of the video recording.

(E) A stenographic record of the deposition shall be made simultaneously with the video recording at the expense of the noting party.

(F) The area to be used for video recording testimony shall be suitable in size, have adequate lighting and be reasonably quiet. The physical arrangements shall be fair to all parties. The deposition shall begin by a statement on the record of:

(i) the operator's name, address and telephone number,

(ii) the name and address of the operator's employer,

(iii) the date, time, and place of the deposition,

(iv) the caption of the case,

(v) the name of the deponent, and

(vi) the name of the party giving notice of the deposition. The officer before whom the deposition is taken shall be identified and swear the deponent on camera. At the conclusion of the deposition, it shall be stated on the record that the deposition is concluded. When more than one storage device is used to record the video recording, the operator shall announce on camera the end of each separate storage device on which the video recording is preserved, such as each tape or disk (if any), and the beginning of the next one.

(G) Absent agreement of the parties or court order, if all or any part of the video recording will be offered at trial, the party offering it must order the stenographic record to be fully transcribed at that party's expense. A party intending to offer a video recording of a deposition in evidence shall notify all parties in writing of that intent and the parts of the deposition to be offered within sufficient time for a stenographic transcript to be prepared, and for objections to be made and ruled on before the trial or hearing. Objections to all or part of the deposition shall be made in writing within sufficient time to allow for rulings on them and for editing of the video recording. The court shall permit further designations of testimony and objections as fairness may require. In excluding objectionable testimony or comments or objections of counsel, the court may order that an edited copy of the video recording be made, or that the person playing the recording at trial suppress the objectionable portions of the recording. In no event, however, shall the original video recording be affected by any editing process.

(H) After the deposition has been taken, the operator of the video recording equipment shall submit with the video recording a certificate that the recording is a correct and complete record of the testimony by the deponent. If the video recording is stored exclusively on a computer or service (including cloud storage) and not on an easily removable and portable storage device, the certificate shall so state and indicate measures taken to preserve it. Unless otherwise agreed by the parties on the record, the operator shall retain custody or control of the original video recording. The custodian shall store it under conditions that will protect it against loss, destruction, or tampering, and shall preserve as far as practicable the quality of the recording and the technical integrity of the testimony and images it contains. The custodian of the original video recording shall retain custody of it until 6 months after final disposition of the action, unless the court, on motion of any party and for good cause shown, orders that the recording be preserved for a longer period.

(I) The use of video recorded depositions shall be subject to rule 32.

(c) Examination and Cross Examination; Record of Examination; Oath; Objections. Examination and cross examination of witnesses may proceed as permitted at the trial under the provisions of the Washington Rules of Evidence (ER). The officer before whom the deposition is to be taken under rule 28(a) shall put the witness on oath and shall personally, or by someone acting under the officer's direction and in the officer's presence, record the testimony of the witness. However, such oath and recording may be administered by the officer from a location remote from the deponent. The testimony shall be taken stenographically or recorded by any other means ordered in accordance with subsection (b)(4) of this rule. If requested by one of the parties, the testimony shall be transcribed.

All objections made at the time of the examination to the qualifications of the officer taking the deposition, or to the manner of taking it, or to the evidence presented, or to the conduct of

any party, and any other objection to the proceedings, shall be noted by the officer upon the deposition. Evidence objected to shall be taken subject to the objections. A judge of the superior court, or a special master if one is appointed pursuant to rule 53.3, may make telephone rulings on objections made during depositions. In lieu of participating in the oral examination, parties may serve written questions in a sealed envelope on the party taking the deposition and the party shall transmit them to the officer, who shall propound them to the witness and record the answers verbatim.

(d) Motion To Terminate or Limit Examination. At any time during the taking of the deposition, on motion of a party or of the deponent and upon a showing that the examination is being conducted in bad faith or in such manner as unreasonably to annoy, embarrass, or oppress the deponent or party, the court in which the action is pending or the court in the county where the deposition is being taken may order the officer conducting the examination to cease forthwith from taking the deposition, or may limit the scope and manner of the taking of the deposition as provided in rule 26(c). If the order made terminates the examination, it shall be resumed thereafter only upon the order of the court in which the action is pending. Upon demand of the objecting party or deponent, the taking of the deposition shall be suspended for the time necessary to make a motion for an order. The provisions of rule 37(a)(4) apply to the award of expenses incurred in relation to the motion.

(e) Submission to Witness; Changes; Signing. When the testimony is fully transcribed the deposition shall be submitted to the witness for examination and shall be read to or by the witness, unless such examination and reading are waived by the witness and by the parties. Any changes in form or substance which the witness desires to make shall be entered upon the deposition by the officer with a statement of the reasons given by the witness for making them. The deposition shall then be signed by the witness, unless the parties by stipulation waive the signing or the witness is ill or cannot be found or refuses to sign. If the deposition is not signed by the witness within 30 days of its submission to the witness, the officer shall sign it and state on the record the fact of the waiver or of the illness or absence of the witness or the fact of the refusal to sign together with the reason, if any, given therefore; and the deposition may then be used as fully as though signed unless on a motion to suppress under rule 32(d)(4) the court holds that the reasons given for the refusal to sign require rejection of the deposition in whole or in part.

(f) Certification and Service by Officer; Exhibits; Copies; Notice.

(1) The officer shall certify on the deposition transcript that the witness was duly sworn and that the transcript is a true record of the testimony given by the witness. The officer shall then secure the transcript in an envelope endorsed with the title of the action and marked "Deposition of (here insert name of witness)" and shall promptly serve it on the person who ordered the transcript, unless the court orders otherwise. Documents and things produced for inspection during the examination of the witness, shall, upon the request of a party, be marked for identification and annexed to and returned with the deposition, and may be inspected and copied by any party, except that:

(A) the person producing the materials may substitute copies to be marked for identification, if the person affords to all parties fair opportunity to verify the copies by comparison with the originals; and

(B) if the person producing the materials requests their return, the officer shall mark them, give each party an opportunity to inspect and copy them, and return them to the person producing them, and the materials may then be used in the same manner as if annexed to and returned with the deposition. Any party may move for an order that the original be annexed to the deposition transcript and filed with the court, pending final disposition of the case.

(2) Upon payment of reasonable charges therefore, the officer shall furnish a copy of the

deposition transcript to any party or the deponent.

(3) The officer serving or filing the deposition transcript shall give prompt notice of such action to all parties and file such notice with the clerk of the court.

(g) Failure to Attend or to Serve Subpoena; Expenses.

(1) If the party giving the notice of the taking of a deposition fails to attend and proceed therewith and another party attends in person or by attorney pursuant to the notice, the court may order the party giving the notice to pay to such other party the reasonable expenses incurred by such party and such other party's attorney in attending, including reasonable attorney fees.

(2) If the party giving the notice of the taking of a deposition of a witness fails to serve a subpoena upon the witness and the witness because of such failure does not attend, and if another party attends in person or by attorney because such party expects the deposition of that witness to be taken, the court may order the party giving the notice to pay to such other party the reasonable expenses incurred by such other party and such other party's attorney in attending, including reasonable attorney fees.

(h) Conduct of Depositions. The following shall govern deposition practice:

(1) *Conduct of Examining Counsel.* Examining counsel will refrain from asking questions he or she knows to be beyond the legitimate scope of discovery, and from undue repetition.

(2) *Objections.* Only objections which are not reserved for time of trial by these rules or which are based on privileges or raised to questions seeking information beyond the scope of discovery may be made during the course of the deposition. All objections shall be concise and must not suggest or coach answers from the deponent. Argumentative interruptions by counsel shall not be permitted.

(3) *Instructions Not To Answer.* Instructions to the deponent not to answer questions are improper, except when based upon privilege or pursuant to rule 30(d). When a privilege is claimed the deponent shall nevertheless answer questions related to the existence, extent, or waiver of the privilege, such as the date of communication, identity of the declarant, and in whose presence the statement was made.

(4) *Responsiveness.* Witnesses shall be instructed to answer all questions directly and without evasion to the extent of their testimonial knowledge, unless properly instructed by counsel not to answer.

(5) *Private Consultation.* Except where agreed to, attorneys shall not privately confer with deponents during the deposition between a question and an answer except for the purpose of determining the existence of privilege. Conferences with attorneys during normal recesses and at adjournment are permissible unless prohibited by the court.

(6) *Courtroom Standard.* All counsel and parties shall conduct themselves in depositions with the same courtesy and respect for the rules that are required in the courtroom during trial.

[Adopted effective July 1, 1967; Amended effective July 1, 1972; April 2, 1979; September 1, 1985; September 1, 1988; September 1, 1989; September 1, 1993; September 1, 2005; April 28, 2015; September 1, 2019; February 1, 2021.]