

TWENTY-SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT OF MISSOURI

Guardian ad litem Standards

Implementation Plan for the Twenty-Second Judicial Circuit

In recognizing that Missouri children have the right to adequate and effective representation in child welfare cases, the Twenty-Second Judicial Circuit provides the following as a plan for implementation of the guardian ad litem standards.

1. The Twenty-Second Judicial Circuit shall disseminate the standards on its court website and keep a copy posted in a public area of the office of the circuit court in the Civil Courts Building and the circuit clerk's office in the family court-juvenile division. Each division that addresses family court division matters shall be provided with a copy of the standards for reference when needed.
2. The judicial officer of each division hearing a family court matter shall appoint guardians ad litem for appropriate cases from a list that is developed of qualified attorneys.
3. The list of approved guardians ad litem shall be maintained by the secretary to the judge of the family court-juvenile division and the paralegal assigned to the domestic relations divisions of the family court. Guardians ad litem shall be added to or removed from the list only at the direction of judges assigned to the domestic relations and juvenile divisions of the circuit court. Instructions to the bar as to how to be considered by the court for appointment as a guardian ad litem will be posted on the court website.
4. Guardian ad litem training may be provided by any qualified entity in accordance with the guardian ad litem standards.
5. On or before July 31 of each year, guardian ad litem shall submit an affidavit showing proof of training, to the secretary to the judge of the family court-juvenile division or the paralegal assigned to the domestic relations divisions of the family court. This affidavit shall also acknowledge that the guardian ad litem has reviewed and has complied with the guardian ad litem standards.
6. The local rules and processes have been reviewed, and no modification in either is necessary at the present time to effectively implement this plan; however, a revision for clarification purposes will be proposed.
7. The Twenty-Second Judicial Circuit shall review this plan as needed to determine the need for modifications necessary to assure the continued effectiveness of the guardian ad litem standards.