IN THE FAMILY COURT OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI

For File Stamp Only

FILED
9/29/2023
JOAN M. GILMER
CIRCUIT CLERK
ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MO

SEJAD DZANANOVIC
Petitioner

09/19/2023
Date

vs.

Case Number: 17SL-DR00517-01

SELMA DZANANOVIC N/K/A TOPALOVIC
Respondent

Division: 64

Appointment of Guardian ad Litem (Domestic)

The Court upon Motion by Respondent and in the best interest of the minor child[redacted] pursuant to Sections 452.423, RSMo., appoints LAURA STOBIE as Guardian ad Litem ("G.A.L."). The Guardian ad Litem shall be the Legal Representative of the minor child(ren) throughout these proceedings.

The Guardian ad Litem, prior to any hearing, shall:

1) If appropriate, interview the child(ren).
2) Conduct all necessary interviews with persons having contact with or knowledge of the child(ren) in order to ascertain the child(ren)'s wishes, feelings, attachments and attitudes.

The Guardian ad Litem may examine, cross examine, subpoena witnesses and offer testimony at any hearing in this cause.

The Guardian ad Litem shall be a party to this cause and shall be provided with copies of all pleadings, documents and reports relevant to the child(ren) and shall have access to all records of any agency or person relating to the child(ren) or such child(ren)'s family members. Any legal custodian of the child(ren) shall promptly execute release of information forms as requested by the Guardian ad Litem.

Upon receipt of this appointment, the Guardian ad Litem shall immediately submit an "Entry of Appearance and Acknowledgement of Obligation to Comply with the Missouri Supreme Court Standards for Guardians ad Litem." As evidenced by his/her signature below, the Guardian ad Litem understands that it is the Court's expectation that he/she comply with the Supreme Court's Standards for Guardians ad Litem as follows:

At the time of this appointment and throughout the duration of this case:

The G.A.L. must be a lawyer licensed to practice law in the State of Missouri, must have completed the training required by the Guardian ad Litem Standards and must act in accordance with the Rules of Professional Conduct. (See GAL Standard 1.0.)

The G.A.L.'s caseload shall not impede the G.A.L.'s ability to comply with the Guardian ad Litem Standards nor shall it affect the G.A.L.'s ability to comply with the ethical standards of the Rules of Professional Conduct. (See GAL Standard 2.0.)

The G.A.L. shall be guided by the best interests of the child/ren in all matters and shall exercise independent judgment in formulating and presenting recommendations to the Court. (See GAL Standard 3.0.)

The G.A.L. shall participate fully in each proceeding and examine or cross-examine witnesses when appropriate, so as to advocate a position designed to serve the best interests of the child/ren, utilizing information the G.A.L has obtained in the G.A.L.'s capacity as Guardian ad Litem. (See GAL Standard 4.0.)

The G.A.L shall strive to make necessary arrangements to ensure that the child/ren and the G.A.L. have reasonable access to and contact with each other. (See GAL Standard 5.0.)

The G.A.L. shall access all records relevant to the child/ren, the child/ren's placement or the child/ren's family members. (See GAL Standard 6.0.)

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The G.A.L. shall adhere to applicable statutes, rules and regulations relating to receipt and redisclosure of privileged information received as Guardian ad Litem. (See GAL Standard 7.0.)

The G.A.L. shall review the progress of the child/ren's case and advocate for timely hearings, provision of necessary services and compliance with court orders. (See GAL Standard 8.0.)

The G.A.L. shall explain to the child/ren, when appropriate, the court process, the role of the Guardian ad Litem and the purpose of each court proceeding. (See GAL Standard 9.0.)

The G.A.L. shall participate in and monitor service plans, parenting plans, proposed orders and staffings affecting the best interests of the child/ren, as appropriate. (See GAL Standard 10.0.)

The G.A.L. shall participate actively and fully in all court proceedings. (See GAL Standard 11.0.)

The G.A.L. shall strive to protect the interests of the child/ren when the child/ren is/are witness(es) in any judicial proceeding for which the G.A.L. has been appointed and for which the G.A.L. has received notice. The G.A.L. shall strive to be present during all conferences between any counsel for a party and the child/ren and for which the G.A.L. has received notice. (See GAL Standard 12.0.)

The G.A.L. shall make recommendations to the court when authorized by law or requested by the court on the basis of the evidence presented and consistent with the best interests of the child/ren. If the recommendations are inconsistent with the wishes of the child/ren, the G.A.L. shall inform the court of the child/ren's wishes. (See GAL Standard 13.0.)

The G.A.L. shall have completed all the Continuing Legal Education hours necessary to be and remain a Guardian ad Litem with this court. (See GAL Standard 14.0.)

At the conclusion of this case, the Guardian ad Litem shall file a "Memorandum of Compliance" with this court, indicating the Guardian's compliance with the Missouri Supreme Court Standards for Guardians ad Litem.

Petitioner is ordered to deposit in the Registry of the Court $750 as and for reasonable costs and fees for the Guardian Ad Litem on Account.

Respondent is ordered to deposit in the Registry of the Court $750 as and for reasonable costs and fees for the Guardian Ad Litem on Account.

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SIGNED BY JUDGE

This is a redacted public document. The original unredacted document bears the Judge's official signature.