

**Form for 1.3.1a
Evaluation of Legal Representation of Children
in Child Abuse and Neglect Proceedings**

Case Data Collection

Case number: _____ Date first action filed: _____

Date GAL appointed: _____

Date(s) of any GAL reappointment(s): _____

Date of disposition hearing: _____

Number of hearings before disposition hearing: _____

Number of predisposition and disposition hearings GAL attended: _____

Number of continuances because GAL not prepared: _____

Number of review hearings: _____

Number of review hearings GAL attended: _____

Reports required to be filed by GAL:	Date due	Date filed
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Other reports in file:

- _____ child welfare agency
- _____ foster care
- _____ educational
- _____ medical
- _____ mental health
- _____ law enforcement
- _____ alcohol/drug evaluation

Evidence in file that GAL made recommendations in new cases: Yes _____ No _____

Evidence in file that GAL made recommendations in review cases: Yes _____ No _____

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Judge

Case Caption: _____

Part I. Activities Performed During Representation

For the case noted above, please indicate whether the guardian ad litem (GAL) performed each of the following activities. Please place an "X" next to those activities that were performed. (If an activity is irrelevant or unnecessary for this case, place a "0" next to the activity. For example, if the child is too young to be able to talk, a "0" should be entered next to the first activity listed below. Likewise, if the child is not of school age, contacts with educational personnel are not needed. If you have insufficient information to answer a particular question, place an "I" next to the activity.)

A. Fact Finding and Investigation

Did the GAL:

- ___ Talk to the child without parents present?
- ___ Talk to the child to assess service/placement needs?
- ___ Observe parent/child interaction to assess service/placement needs?
- ___ Visit parents' home to assess service/placement needs?
- ___ Visit foster home or shelter to assess service/placement needs?

Did the GAL contact:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| ___ Caseworker? | ___ Parent's attorney? |
| ___ Parents? | ___ State's attorney? |
| ___ Relatives/other adults? | ___ Educational personnel? |
| ___ Foster parents? | ___ Medical personnel? |
| ___ Law enforcement personnel? | |

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Did the GAL seek information from:

- Police reports?
- CPS agency record?
- Child welfare records on the family?
- Court records (pleadings, petitions)?
- Medical/mental health records?
- Other records? (List: _____)

B. Activities During or Related to Court Hearings

Did the GAL:

- Subpoena necessary records not already in the file?
- Submit written reports?
- Submit oral reports?
- Offer case plan?
- Make an opening statement?
- Call lay witnesses?
- Call expert witnesses?
- Cross-examine witnesses?
- Make a closing statement?

C. Negotiations

Did the GAL:

- Attempt to bring the different parties together?
- Conduct negotiations?
- Highlight the common goals of the parties?
- Suggest options?
- Draft a written agreement?
- Other? (List: _____)

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D. Monitoring

Since the review hearing, has the GAL contacted:

- Parents/other adults in the home?
- Foster parents?
- Caseworker?
- Child welfare agency?
- Parents' attorney?
- State's attorney?
- Medical/mental health personnel?
- Educational personnel?
- Court?
- Other? (List: _____)

Part II. Overall Ratings

Please rate your overall impression of the effectiveness of the legal representation of the child in this case. (Circle the number of your response.)

	Ineffective		Effective		Very Effective
	1	2	3	4	5
Investigation activities	1	2	3	4	5
Representation during hearings	1	2	3	4	5
Representation during negotiations	1	2	3	4	5
Monitoring activities	1	2	3	4	5

Please add your comments about the legal representation offered in this case:

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Part III. Training and Practice Issues

Please indicate the degree to which you agree or disagree with the statements below. (Circle the number of your response.)

	Agree Strongly	Agree	Agree in Part/ Disagree in Part	Disagree	Disagree Strongly
There are clear definitions and expectations of the roles and responsibilities of GALs in this jurisdiction.	1	2	3	4	5
The training required for GALs is adequate.	1	2	3	4	5
Judges have adequate training in child welfare proceedings regarding GALs representation.	1	2	3	4	5
Standards of practice for GALs should be developed for this jurisdiction.	1	2	3	4	5
Compensation for GALs is adequate to promote effective representation.	1	2	3	4	5

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Evaluation of Legal Representation of Children
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Guardian ad litem

Case Caption: _____

Part I. Activities Performed During Representation

For the case noted above, please indicate whether you performed each of the following activities. Please place an "X" next to those activities that were performed. (If an activity is irrelevant or unnecessary for this case, place a "0" next to the activity. For example, if the child is too young to be able to talk, a "0" should be entered next to the first activity listed below. Likewise, if the child is not of school age, contacts with educational personnel are not needed.)

A. Fact Finding and Investigation

Did you:

- ___ Talk to the child without parents present?
- ___ Talk to the child to assess service/placement needs?
- ___ Observe parent/child interaction to assess service/placement needs?
- ___ Visit the parents' home to assess service/placement needs?
- ___ Visit the foster home or shelter to assess service/placement needs?

Did you contact:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ___ Caseworker? | ___ Parent's attorney? |
| ___ Parents? | ___ Commonwealth/State's attorney? |
| ___ Relatives/other adults? | ___ Educational personnel? |
| ___ Foster parents? | ___ Medical personnel? |
| ___ Law enforcement personnel? | |

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Did you seek information from:

- Police reports?
- CPS agency record?
- Child welfare records on the family?
- Court records (pleadings, petitions)?
- Medical/mental health records?
- Other records? (List: _____)

B. Activities During or Related to Court Hearings

Did you:

- Subpoena necessary records not already in the file?
- Submit written reports?
- Submit oral reports?
- Offer case plan?
- Make an opening statement?
- Call lay witnesses?
- Call expert witnesses?
- Cross-examine witnesses?
- Make a closing statement?

C. Negotiations

Did you:

- Attempt to bring the different parties together?
- Conduct negotiations?
- Highlight the common goals of the parties?
- Suggest options?
- Draft a written agreement?
- Other? (List: _____)

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D. Monitoring

Since the review hearing, have you contacted:

- Parents/other adults in the home?
- Foster parents?
- Caseworker?
- Child welfare agency?
- Parents' attorney?
- State's attorney?
- Medical/mental health personnel?
- Educational personnel?
- Court?
- Other? (List: _____)

Part II. Overall Ratings

Please rate your overall impression of the effectiveness of your legal representation of the child in this case. (Circle the number of your response.)

	Ineffective		Effective		Very Effective
Investigation activities	1	2	3	4	5
Representation during hearings	1	2	3	4	5
Representation during negotiations	1	2	3	4	5
Monitoring activities	1	2	3	4	5

Please add your comments about the legal representation offered in this case:

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Part III. Training and Practice Issues

Please indicate the degree to which you agree or disagree with the statements below. (Circle the number of your response.)

	Agree Strongly	Agree	Agree in Part/ Disagree in Part	Disagree	Disagree Strongly
There are clear definitions and expectations of the roles and responsibilities of GALs in this jurisdiction.	1	2	3	4	5
The training required for GALs is adequate.	1	2	3	4	5
I have adequate training in child welfare and child development to effectively represent children as a GAL.	1	2	3	4	5
Judges have adequate training in child welfare proceedings regarding GALs representation.	1	2	3	4	5
Standards of practice for GALs should be developed for this jurisdiction.	1	2	3	4	5
Compensation for GALs is adequate to promote effective representation.	1	2	3	4	5

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Caseworker

Case Caption: _____

Part I. Activities Performed During Representation

For the case noted above, please indicate whether the guardian ad litem (GAL) performed each of the following activities. Please place an "X" next to those activities that were performed. (If an activity is irrelevant or unnecessary for this case, place a "0" next to the activity. For example, if the child is too young to be able to talk, a "0" should be entered next to the first activity listed below. Likewise, if the child is not of school age, contacts with educational personnel are not needed. If you have insufficient information to answer a particular question, place an "I" next to the activity.)

A. Fact Finding and Investigation

Did the GAL:

- ___ Talk to the child without parents present?
- ___ Talk to the child to assess service/placement needs?
- ___ Observe parent/child interaction to assess service/placement needs?
- ___ Visit parents' home to assess service/placement needs?
- ___ Visit foster home or shelter to assess service/placement needs?

Did the GAL contact:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| ___ Caseworker? | ___ Parent's attorney? |
| ___ Parents? | ___ State's attorney? |
| ___ Relatives/other adults? | ___ Educational personnel? |
| ___ Foster parents? | ___ Medical personnel? |
| ___ Law enforcement personnel? | |

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Did the GAL seek information from:

- Police reports?
- CPS agency record?
- Child welfare records on the family?
- Court records (pleadings, petitions)?
- Medical/mental health records?
- Other records? (List: _____)

B. Activities During or Related to Court Hearings

Did the GAL:

- Subpoena necessary records not already in the file?
- Submit written reports?
- Submit oral reports?
- Offer case plan?
- Make an opening statement?
- Call lay witnesses?
- Call expert witnesses?
- Cross-examine witnesses?
- Make a closing statement?

C. Negotiations

Did the GAL:

- Attempt to bring the different parties together?
- Conduct negotiations?
- Highlight the common goals of the parties?
- Suggest options?
- Draft a written agreement?
- Other? (List: _____)

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D. Monitoring

Since the review hearing, has the GAL contacted:

- Parents/other adults in the home?
- Foster parents?
- Caseworker?
- Child welfare agency?
- Parents' attorney?
- State's attorney?
- Medical/mental health personnel?
- Educational personnel?
- Court?
- Other? (List: _____)

Part II. Overall Ratings

Please rate your overall impression of the effectiveness of the legal representation of the child in this case. (Circle the number of your response.)

	Ineffective		Effective		Very Effective
Investigation activities	1	2	3	4	5
Representation during hearings	1	2	3	4	5
Representation during negotiations	1	2	3	4	5
Monitoring activities	1	2	3	4	5

Please add your comments about the legal representation offered in this case:

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Part III. Training and Practice Issues

Please indicate the degree to which you agree or disagree with the statements below. (Circle the number of your response.)

	Agree Strongly	Agree	Agree in Part/ Disagree in Part	Disagree	Disagree Strongly
There are clear definitions and expectations of the roles and responsibilities of GALs in this jurisdiction.	1	2	3	4	5
The training required for GALs is adequate.	1	2	3	4	5
Judges have adequate training in child welfare proceedings regarding GALs representation	1	2	3	4	5
Standards of practice for GALs should be developed for this jurisdiction.	1	2	3	4	5
Compensation for GALs is adequate to promote effective representation.	1	2	3	4	5