



Report of the Guardian ad Litem Subcommittee

of the Family Re-Engineering Committee

Submitted to Chief Justice Chase T. Rogers

January 22, 2016

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I. Purpose of the Guardian ad Litem Subcommittee

The Guardian ad Litem Subcommittee was established to study and recommend the minimum qualifications necessary to be eligible for appointment as a guardian ad litem and attorney for the minor child in family matters, as well as a process by which guardians ad litem and attorneys for the minor child may be removed from the list of those deemed eligible for appointment in family matters.

The subcommittee met on July 14, 2015; August 17, 2015; September 29, 2015; and January 14, 2016. The subcommittee posted its draft report on the Judicial Branch's website and sought input from members of the public. The purpose of the January 14, 2016 meeting was to review the recommendations/comments that were received from the public. It should be noted that many of the recommendations/comments that were within the purview of the subcommittee were incorporated into this new report, and the subcommittee would like to thank those who responded.

II. Members of the Subcommittee

Chief Justice Chase T. Rogers appointed the following individuals to serve on the subcommittee:

- Judge Elizabeth A. Bozzuto, Chief Administrative Judge of the Family Division, Chairperson
- Michael P. Bowler, Statewide Bar Counsel, Superior Court Operations Division
- Melissa A. Farley, Executive Director, External Affairs Division
- Deborah J. Fuller, Director, Family and Juvenile Services, Court Support Services Division
- Damon Goldstein, Caseflow Management Specialist, Family and Support Matters, Superior Court Operations Division
- Elizabeth K. Graham, Director, Human Resource Management Unit, Administrative Services Division
- Johanna Greenfield, Deputy Director, Family and Support Matters, Superior Court Operations Division
- Debra Kulak, Deputy Director, Family Services, Court Support Services Division
- Martin R. Libbin, Director, Legal Services, Superior Court Operations Division
- Stephen N. Ment, Director of Superior Court Operations, Legislation
- Christine P. Rapillo, Director of Delinquency Defense and Child Protection, Office of the Chief Public Defender

- Joyce P. Santoro, Director of Budget, Planning and Internal Audit Unit, Administrative Services Division

III. Recommendations

A. Establishment of a Standing Committee on Guardians ad Litem and Attorneys for the Minor Child in Family Matters

The subcommittee recommends that a standing committee on guardians ad litem and attorneys for the minor child in family matters be established to, among other things:

- approve the training curriculum;
- establish additional qualifications beyond the minimum qualifications pursuant to the Connecticut Practice Book;
- establish and administer a process by which an individual may be added or removed from the list of those deemed eligible for appointment as a guardian ad litem or attorney for the minor child; and
- approve the list of those eligible to serve as a guardian ad litem or an attorney for the minor child.

The membership shall consist of nine individuals appointed by the Chief Court Administrator and shall include:

- two judges of the Superior Court with experience presiding over family matters, one of whom shall be the chairperson;
- the Chief Public Defender or his or her designee;
- the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health or his or her designee;
- a licensed mental health professional with experience in child and family matters;
- a representative of a non-profit legal services organization with experience in family matters;
- an attorney who practices family law and is not on the list of those eligible to accept appointments as a guardian ad litem or an attorney for the minor child;
- and two members of the public.

The terms shall be established by the Chief Court Administrator.

B. Professional Minimum Qualifications

The subcommittee recommends that individuals who are eligible to serve as a guardian ad litem must be licensed by the Connecticut Judicial Branch as an attorney in good standing or licensed by the Connecticut Department of Public Health as a mental health professional in good standing. This will ensure that they abide by the standards required of their profession.

Specifically, it is recommended that no person be eligible for appointment as a guardian ad litem unless he or she is a:

- Licensed attorney in Connecticut, who is in good standing;
- Licensed clinical social worker in Connecticut, who is in good standing;
- Licensed marriage and family therapist in Connecticut, who is in good standing;
- Licensed professional counselor in Connecticut, who is in good standing;
- Licensed psychiatrist in Connecticut, who is in good standing; or a
- Licensed psychologist in Connecticut, who is in good standing.

C. Additional Minimum Qualifications

The subcommittee also recommends that individuals seeking to be added to the list of professionals who are eligible to be appointed as a guardian ad litem or attorney for the minor child be required to:

- Complete an online application listing his or her relevant experience;
- Provide proof that he or she does not have a criminal record;
- Provide proof that he or she does not appear on the Department of Children and Families' central registry of child abuse and neglect;
- Provide proof that he or she is in good standing with his or her licensing authority;
- Complete pre-service training as required by the proposed newly established *Standing Committee on Guardians ad Litem and Attorneys for the Minor Child in Family Matters*;

- Meet any additional qualifications as required by the *Standing Committee on Guardians ad Litem and Attorneys for the Minor Child in Family Matters* ; and
- Be approved as eligible to serve as a guardian ad litem by the *Standing Committee on Guardians ad Litem and Attorneys for the Minor Child in Family Matters*.

D. Training Requirements

The subcommittee recommends that the Office of the Chief Public Defender collaborate with the *Standing Committee on Guardians ad Litem and Attorneys for the Minor Child in Family Matters* to administer the training of guardians ad litem and attorneys for the minor child in family matters.

Pre-Service Training Requirements

The subcommittee recommends that individuals seeking eligibility to serve as guardians ad litem or attorneys for the minor child complete a minimum of 20 hours of a pre-service training program approved by the *Standing Committee on Guardians ad Litem and Attorneys for the Minor Child in Family Matters*, including but not limited to such topics as:

- Child development;
- Communicating with children;
- Cultural Competence;
- Courtroom practice;
- Domestic Violence;
- Ethics , including protocols for fees and billing;
- Family dynamics;
- Interviewing children; and
- Trauma.

Continuing Education Requirements

The subcommittee recommends that to maintain eligibility to serve as a guardian ad litem or attorney for the minor child individuals be required to certify every three years that they have completed 12 hours of relevant training within the past three years, three hours of which must be in ethics.

E. Periodic Review

The subcommittee recommends that all individuals deemed eligible to be appointed as a guardian ad litem or an attorney for the minor child certify annually to the Office of the Chief Public Defender that they continue to meet the standards required to remain in good standing as a guardian ad litem or an attorney for the minor child.

In order to maintain eligibility every three years, the subcommittee recommends that individuals be required to:

1. Certify that they have:
 - completed 12 hours of relevant training within the past three years, three hours of which must be in ethics;
 - do not appear on the Department of Children and Families' central registry of child abuse and neglect; and
 - not been charged with or convicted of any crime since having been approved to be a guardian ad litem or attorney for the minor child.

2. Meet any additional requirements as determined by the *Standing Committee on Guardians ad Litem and Attorneys for the Minor Child in Family Matters*.

While the guardian ad litem or attorney for the minor child will be subject to this periodic review, an affirmative obligation also exists for the guardian ad litem or attorney for the minor child to notify the Office of the Chief Public Defender and the *Standing Committee on Guardians ad Litem and Attorneys for the Minor Child in Family Matters* if there has been any change that would impact his or her eligibility to serve as

a guardian ad litem or attorney for the minor child. Failure to report such changes shall be cause for removal from the list.

The subcommittee recommends that the Judicial Branch adopt internal procedures to notify the standing committee when circumstances arise that may affect an individual's eligibility to be appointed as a guardian ad litem and attorney for the minor child. To that end, the Statewide Grievance Committee shall notify the standing committee whenever an eligible attorney is disciplined or convicted of a crime.

F. Removing an Individual from the Eligibility List

The subcommittee recommends that the *Standing Committee on Guardians ad Litem and Attorneys for the Minor Child in Family Matters* establish and administer a process by which an individual may be removed from the list of those deemed eligible for appointment as a guardian ad litem or attorney for the minor child.

G. Other Recommendations

The subcommittee recommends that the list of individuals who are eligible to serve as guardians ad litem and attorneys for the minor child continue to be posted on the Judicial Branch's website along with the information submitted by each applicant about his or her experience in this area.

The subcommittee recommends that the individuals who are on the current list of those eligible to serve as guardians ad litem and attorneys for the minor child shall be required to meet the additional minimum qualifications as set forth in Section III (C) of this report within a time period set forth by the *Standing Committee on Guardians ad Litem and Attorneys for the Minor Child in Family Matters*.

Please note that the subcommittee recommends that individuals who are on the current list of those eligible to serve as guardians ad litem or attorneys for the minor child and who meet the new eligibility requirements **not** be required to take the pre-service training again, although they would be required to complete the continuing education requirements.

IV. Appendix

Meeting Minutes and Agenda

The subcommittee met on July 14, 2015; August 17, 2015; September 29, 2015; and January 14, 2016. This appendix contains the agenda and minutes for these meetings.



**Guardian ad Litem Subcommittee
of the Family Re-Engineering Committee
90 Washington Street, Hartford
4th Floor Large Conference Room
Tuesday, July 14, 2015
11:30 a.m.**

Agenda

- I. Welcome and Introductions – Judge Elizabeth Bozzuto
- II. Charge of the Subcommittee – Judge Bozzuto
- III. Update on efforts to remove attorneys/GALs who are not in good standing or inactive from the list of GALs eligible to be appointed in family matters – Attorney Martin Libbin and Attorney Michael Bowler
- IV. Discussion of what the minimum qualifications should be to be appointed as a GAL, including possible training and/or certification
- V. Discussion of a structure by which complaints that a GAL violated the GAL Code of Conduct may be considered
- VI. Discussion of criteria by which an individual's right to serve as a GAL may be revoked or suspended
- VII. Scheduling of next meeting
- VIII. Adjournment



**Guardian ad Litem Subcommittee
of the Family Re-Engineering Committee
90 Washington Street, Hartford
4th Floor Large Conference Room
Tuesday, July 14, 2015
11:30 a.m.**

Minutes

- I. Judge Elizabeth Bozzuto welcomed the members and asked each person to introduce themselves.
- II. Judge Bozzuto discussed the charge of the committee, which is to:
 - Recommend the minimum qualifications necessary to be appointed as a GAL, including possible training and/or certification.
 - Recommend a structure by which complaints that a GAL violated the GAL Code of Conduct may be considered.
 - Recommend the criteria by which an individual's right to serve as a GAL may be revoked or suspended.
- III. Attorney Michael Bowler and Attorney Martin Libbin provided the members with an update on the efforts to remove attorneys/GALs who are not in good standing or are inactive from the list of GALs who are eligible to be appointed in family matters.

Attorney Bowler reported that 242 GALs/lawyers are not in good standing, which includes attorneys who are currently inactive (retired, deceased or suspended,) those who have not completed the attorney registration form and who have not paid the 2015 Client Security Fund fee.

Attorney Libbin indicated that a letter is being prepared to be sent to these attorneys to inform them of their status and that they will be removed from the list of individuals who are authorized to serve as GALs, if they are not in good standing by August 3, 2015.

Attorney Melissa Farley indicated that after August 3, a new list will be generated of attorneys/GALs who are inactive or not in good standing and their names will be removed from the list of people eligible to serve as GALs.

Attorney Libbin also mentioned that Court Operations will be asked to review the list of GAL attorneys who are not in good standing or are inactive to determine if any of them are currently serving as GALs. If any are, notice will be provided to the corresponding presiding judge.

Attorney Farley indicated that a plan will be put into place to periodically run the list of attorneys/GALs with the bar master to determine which attorneys/GALs are inactive or are not in good standing.

- IV. The subcommittee discussed what the minimum qualifications should be to be eligible for appointment as a GAL, including possible training and/or certification.

Based upon research conducted by Joe DiTunno and Matthew Berardino, the recommendation of External Affairs was that, in some form or another, the GAL ought to be licensed and in good standing.

The members discussed a number of issues such as: whether licensure ought to be a prerequisite to appoint, whether background checks should be conducted, whether there should be a periodic review and whether the GAL needed to demonstrate experience with child custody issues.

Attorney Christine Rapillo suggested that, other than for attorneys, the licensure standards set by the Department of Public Health be used. Attorney Farley agreed to provide members with the list of Department of Public Health requirements for the professionals under consideration to be eligible to be appointed as a GAL.

The consensus of the members was to require individuals who are eligible to serve as a GAL to be licensed in Connecticut and in good standing. This will ensure that they abide by the standards required of their profession and be disciplined, if necessary. The following individuals may be appointed to serve as GALs:

1. Licensed attorney in Connecticut, who is in good standing
2. Licensed clinical social worker in Connecticut, who is in good standing
3. Licensed marriage and family therapist in Connecticut, who is in good standing
4. Licensed psychiatrist in Connecticut, who is in good standing
5. Licensed psychologist in Connecticut, who is in good standing
6. Licensed counselor in Connecticut, who is in good standing

Individuals seeking to be added to the list of those eligible to be appointed as GALs would need to:

- Complete an online application listing their relevant experience;
- Provide a copy of a State Police criminal background check;
- Provide a copy of a background check conducted by the Department of Children and Families;

- Provide a certificate by their licensing authority indicating that they are in good standing; and
- Complete any required training.

The list of individuals who are eligible to serve as GALs will continue to be posted on the Judicial Branch's website along with the information submitted by the applicant about his/her experience in this area.

The individuals who are currently on the list of individuals eligible to service as GALs would be grandfathered in.

Henceforth, each year, the individuals who are on the list of individuals eligible to serve as GALs would need to:

- indicate that they would like to remain on the list;
- certify that they are currently in good standing;
- certify that they have not been convicted of a crime; and
- certify that they don't appear on the Department of Children and Families' Child Abuse Child Registry.

- V. Discussion of a structure by which complaints that a GAL violated the GAL Code of Conduct may be considered and the criteria by which an individual's right to serve as a GAL may be revoked or suspended

The subcommittee agreed that a working group should be put into place to review this issue and to provide recommendations to the subcommittee. Attorney Martin Libbin, Attorney Michael Bowler and Attorney Stephen Ment agreed to serve on this working group.

- VI. Discussion of training requirements for GALs

The subcommittee agreed that a working group should be put into place to review this issue and to provide recommendations to the subcommittee. Attorney Christine Rapillo, Debra Kulak and Attorney Melissa Farley agreed to serve on this working group.

- VII. The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, August 17, 2015, at 2 p.m. in the 4th floor conference room at 90 Washington Street in Hartford.

- VIII. The subcommittee adjourned.



**Guardian ad Litem Subcommittee
of the Family Re-Engineering Committee
90 Washington Street, Hartford
4th Floor Large Conference Room
Monday, August 17, 2015
2 p.m.**

Agenda

- I. Welcome and Introductions – Judge Elizabeth Bozzuto
- II. Approval of Minutes from the July 14, 2015 meeting
- III. Update on efforts to remove attorneys/GALs who are not in good standing or inactive from the list of GALs eligible to be appointed in family matters – Attorney Martin Libbin and Attorney Michael Bowler
- IV. Report on the Training Workgroup – Attorney Christine Rapillo, Debra Kulak and Attorney Melissa Farley
- V. Report on the workgroup to develop a structure by which complaints that a GAL violated the GAL Code of Conduct may be considered and criteria by which an individual's right to serve as a GAL may be revoked or suspended – Attorney Martin Libbin, Attorney Michael Bowler, Attorney Stephen Ment
- VI. Next steps, including drafting preliminary recommendations; seeking input; drafting the final recommendations; submitting report
- VII. Scheduling of next meeting
- VIII. Adjournment



**Guardian ad Litem Subcommittee
of the Family Re-Engineering Committee
90 Washington Street, Hartford
4th Floor Large Conference Room
Monday, August 17, 2015
2 p.m.**

Minutes

- I. Judge Elizabeth Bozzuto welcomed everyone in attendance.
- II. The minutes from the July 14, 2015 meeting were unanimously approved.
- III. Attorney Mike Bowler provided an update on the efforts to remove attorneys/GALs who are not in good standing or inactive from the list of GALs eligible to be appointed in family matters.

Letters and e-mails were sent to attorneys/GALs who were inactive or not in good standing asking them to remedy their licensing problems or be removed from the approved GAL/AMC list by Monday, August 3rd.

Mike reported that Tim Barone from Information Technology produced a spreadsheet of the names of the attorneys/GALs who did not address their license issues. There were 51 names on the list. Seventeen of the 51 were inactive; the balance were active but with registration and/or Client Security Fund fee issues. He also mentioned that three of the 17 inactive attorneys are deceased.

A schedule will be set up to periodically check that the attorneys/GALs are in good standing with the Statewide Grievance Committee.

Judge Bozzuto asked if the individuals who are on the list of people who are eligible to serve as GALs and who have indicated that they are licensed health professionals will have their licenses checked with the Department of Public Health. Attorney Melissa Farley said that she would have someone check on this.

- IV. Report on the Training Work Group

Attorney Chris Rapillo reported on the work of the Training Work Group. The work group suggested the following:

- a) The Connecticut Practice Book be amended to require that individuals seeking to serve as GALs complete a 15-hour pre-service training program that covers the following topics:
- Courtroom practice
 - Child development
 - Communicating with children
 - Interviewing children
 - Domestic Violence
 - Trauma
 - Family dynamics
- b) Continuing education
- During the first year of eligibility, guardians ad litem shall certify that they have completed a minimum of 10 hours of training in a related field.
 - During the second and subsequent years of eligibility, guardians ad litem shall certify that they have completed a minimum of six hours of training in a related field.
- c) The Office of the Chief Public Defender, in consultation with the Judicial Branch, shall assume the responsibility for training all guardians ad litem, based upon the above requirements, which will be codified in the Connecticut Practice Book.

The report was approved by the members, with special thanks to Attorney Chris Rapillo and the Office of the Chief Public Defender.

- V. The Workgroup was charged with developing a mechanism by which a person who is approved to serve as a GAL or AMC may be removed from the Judicial Branch's approved list.

Attorney Bowler explained that the process would be used if the person approved to be a GAL/AMC has shown a lack of fitness to remain on the approved list. The conduct would be judged based upon the GAL/AMC Code of Conduct recently adopted by the Judicial Branch.

The work group recommended that there be a broadly worded amendment to §25-62 indicating that the Chief Court Administrator can establish the criteria for appointment as well as to remove, revoke, or suspend a GAL/AMC from the approved list. The GAL/AMC would have to agree to the procedural scheme developed by the Judicial Branch as a condition to appointment and to remain on the approved list.

The approved removal process would be provided to all GALs and AMCs and would be published online at the Judicial Branch website, perhaps under a new tab created just for GAL/AMC matters.

Attorney Bowler explained the suggested process, which was modeled after the Statewide Grievance Committee process.

Attorney Joe D'Alesio suggested that the subcommittee may want to look at the process that is used to remove a small claims/motor vehicle magistrate. The work group thought it best to discuss this issue further.

- VI. The members discussed the next steps including drafting preliminary recommendations, seeking input, drafting the final recommendations, and submitting the report.
- VII. The next meeting is scheduled for September 29, 2015.
- VIII. Adjournment



**Guardian ad Litem Subcommittee
of the Family Re-Engineering Committee
90 Washington Street, Hartford
4th Floor Large Conference Room
Tuesday, September 29, 2015
9 a.m.**

Agenda

- I. Welcome and Introductions – Judge Elizabeth Bozzuto
- II. Approval of Minutes from the August 17, 2015 meeting
- III. Status of the current list of people who are eligible to be appointed as GALs in family matters
- IV. Review of charge of the subcommittee
- V. Next steps, including drafting preliminary recommendations; seeking input; drafting the final recommendations; submitting report
- VI. Scheduling of next meeting
- VII. Adjournment



**Guardian ad Litem Subcommittee
of the Family Re-Engineering Committee
90 Washington Street, Hartford
4th Floor Large Conference Room
Tuesday, September 29, 2015
9 a.m.**

Minutes

- I. Judge Elizabeth Bozzuto welcomed everyone in attendance.
- II. The minutes from the August 17, 2015 meeting were unanimously approved.
- III. Attorney Damon Goldstein discussed the status of the GAL eligibility list and reported that there had been approximately 1,000 individuals who were listed as eligible to serve as GALs/AMCs. The number is now down to 394.
- IV. Judge Bozzuto reviewed the charge of the working group.

Subcommittee members agreed that individuals should be licensed professionals to be eligible to serve as GALs and agreed to recommend that following minimum qualifications:

- Licensed attorney in Connecticut, who is in good standing
- Licensed clinical social worker in Connecticut, who is in good standing
- Licensed marriage and family therapist in Connecticut, who is in good standing
- Licensed professional counselor in Connecticut, who is in good standing
- Licensed psychiatrist in Connecticut, who is in good standing
- Licensed psychologist in Connecticut, who is in good standing

The members also agreed to recommend that the individuals seeking to be added to the list of individuals who are eligible to be appointed as GALs would also need to:

- Complete an online application listing their relevant experience;
- Provide a copy of a State Police criminal background check;

- Provide a copy of a background check conducted by the Department of Children and Families;
- Provide a certificate by their licensing authority indicating that they are in good standing; and
- Complete any required training.

V. The members discussed the possibility of having the Office of the Public Defender screen applicants seeking to be deemed eligible to serve as GALs/AMCs and to conduct the training program. The members also discussed how best to remove people from the list and to review complaints. There was a consensus that some sort of standing committee should be formed to review the training curriculum and to remove GAL/AMCs from the eligibility list. The members agreed that a work group be formed to provide recommendations to the subcommittee.

VI. Adjournment



**Guardian Ad Litem Subcommittee
of the Family Re-Engineering Committee
90 Washington Street, Hartford
4th Floor Large Conference Room
Thursday, January 14, 2016
2 p.m.**

Agenda

- I. Welcome and Introductions – Judge Elizabeth Bozzuto

- II. Review of comments received on the subcommittee’s recommendations

- III. Adjournment



**Guardian Ad Litem Subcommittee
of the Family Re-Engineering Committee
90 Washington Street, Hartford
4th Floor Large Conference Room
Thursday, January 14, 2016
2 p.m.**

Minutes

- I. Judge Elizabeth Bozzuto welcomed everyone in attendance.

- II. The subcommittee discussed the comments received by members of the public about its draft report. It was noted that many of the comments/recommendations, while worthy of further discussion, were beyond the purview of the subcommittee and its specific charge. The subcommittee considered only those recommendations that were within its purview.

The subcommittee made numerous changes to the draft report.

Attorney Mike Bowler and Attorney Martin Libbin spoke about the corresponding language changes that would need to be made to the proposed Practice Book rule. Attorney Bowler agreed to make these changes.

External Affairs took responsibility for redrafting the subcommittee report based upon the changes made in response to public comment. The redraft will be sent out to all subcommittee members for final comments.

- III. Adjournment

Proposed Practice Book Changes

(NEW) Sec. 25-61A. Standing Committee on Guardians ad Litem and Attorneys for the Minor Child in Family Matters

a) There shall be a standing committee on guardians ad litem and attorneys for the minor child in family matters. The membership shall consist of nine individuals, appointed by the chief court administrator. The members shall serve at the pleasure of the chief court administrator, and shall include:

1. the chief public defender, or his or her designee;
2. a mental health professional, with experience in the fields of child and family matters;
3. the commissioner of the department of mental health, or his or her designee;
4. an attorney in good standing , licensed to practice law in the State of Connecticut by the judicial branch, who focuses his or her practice in the area of family law, and who is not on the list of individuals qualified to be appointed as a guardian ad litem or an attorney for a minor child in a family matter;
5. two judges of the superior court with experience presiding over family matters, one of whom shall be designated by the chief court administrator to serve as chairperson;
6. two members of the public; and
7. a representative of a non-profit legal services organization who has experience in family law.

b) In addition to any other powers and duties set forth in this chapter, the standing committee on guardians ad litem and attorneys for the minor child in family matters shall:

1. From time to time, establish additional qualifications, not inconsistent with Sections 25-62 and 25-62A, for an individual to be deemed eligible to be appointed as a guardian ad litem or attorney for the minor child in family matters.
2. Approve the curriculum for the training required by sections 25-62 and 25-62A as amended.

3. Establish and administer a process by which an individual may be removed from the list of those deemed eligible for appointment as a guardian ad litem or attorney for the minor child in family matters.
4. Annually review and approve a list of individuals deemed eligible for appointment as a guardian ad litem or attorney for the minor child in family matters.
5. Adopt procedures to carry out its functions.

c) The office of chief public defender shall collaborate with the standing committee on guardians ad litem and attorneys for the minor child in family matters to:

1. Administer the training of guardians ad litem and attorneys for the minor child in family matters.
2. Promulgate and maintain an application for individuals to be deemed eligible to be appointed as a guardian ad litem or attorney for the minor child in family matters.
3. Provide a list of qualified individuals to be eligible for appointment as a guardian ad litem or attorney for the minor child to the judicial branch at least once per year.

d) The office of chief public defender may promulgate and maintain an additional application process for eligible individuals wishing to contract with the office of chief public defender to serve as a guardian ad litem or attorney for the minor child at state rates.

Sec. 25-62. Appointment of Guardian ad Litem

(a) The judicial authority may appoint a guardian ad litem for a minor involved in any family matter. Unless the judicial authority orders that another person be appointed guardian ad litem, a family relations counselor shall be designated as guardian ad litem. The guardian ad litem is not required to be an attorney.

(b) With the exception of family relations counselors, no person may be appointed as guardian ad litem [until he or she has completed the comprehensive training program for all family division guardians ad litem sponsored by the judicial branch.] unless he or she:

1. Is an attorney in good standing, licensed to practice law in the State of Connecticut by the Judicial Branch, or is a mental health professional, licensed by the Connecticut department of public health and in good standing, in the areas of clinical social work, marriage and family therapy, professional counseling, psychology or psychiatry.
2. Provides proof that he or she does not have a criminal record.
3. Provides proof that he or she does not appear on the department of children and families' central registry of child abuse and neglect.
4. Completes a minimum of 20 hours of pre-service training as determined by the standing committee on guardians ad litem and attorneys for the minor child in family matters.
5. Meets any additional qualifications established by the standing committee on guardians ad litem and attorneys for the minor child in family matters.
6. Applies, provides proof of the foregoing items and is approved as eligible to serve as a guardian ad litem by the standing committee on guardians ad litem and attorneys for the minor child in family matters.

(c) The status of all individuals deemed eligible to be appointed as a guardian ad litem in family matters shall be reviewed by the standing committee on guardians ad litem and attorneys for the minor child in family matters every three years. To maintain eligibility, individuals must:

1. Certify that they have completed 12 hours of relevant training within the past 3 years, 3 hours of which must be in ethics.
2. Disclose any changes to their criminal history.

3. Certify that they do not appear on the department of children and families' central registry of child abuse and neglect.
4. Meet additional qualifications as determined by the standing committee on guardians ad litem and attorneys for the minor child in family matters.

(d) The judicial authority may order compensation for services rendered by a court-appointed guardian ad litem.

Sec. 25-62A. Appointment of Attorney for the Minor Child

(a) The judicial authority may appoint an attorney for [a] the minor child in any family matter.

(b) No person [shall] may be appointed as an attorney for [a] the minor child [until he or she has completed the comprehensive training program for all family division attorneys for minor children sponsored by the judicial branch.] unless he or she:

1. Is an attorney in good standing, licensed to practice law in the state of Connecticut.
2. Provides proof that he or she does not have a criminal record.
3. Provides proof that he or she does not appear on the department of children and families' central registry of child abuse and neglect.
4. Completes a minimum of 20 hours of pre-service training as determined by the standing committee on guardians ad litem and attorneys for the minor child in family matters.
5. Meets any additional qualifications established by the standing committee on guardians ad litem and attorneys for the minor child in family matters.
6. Applies, provides proof of the foregoing items and is approved as eligible to serve as an attorney for the minor child by the standing committee on guardians ad litem and attorneys for the minor child in family matters.

(c) The status of all individuals deemed eligible to be appointed as an attorney for the minor child in family matters shall be reviewed by the standing committee on guardians ad litem and attorneys for the minor child in family matters every three years.

To maintain eligibility, individuals must:

1. Certify that they have completed 12 hours of relevant training within the past 3 years, 3 hours of which must be in ethics.
2. Disclose any changes to their criminal history.
3. Certify that they do not appear on the department of children and families' central registry of child abuse and neglect.
4. Meet additional qualifications as determined by the standing committee on guardians ad litem and attorneys for the minor child in family matters.

(d) The judicial authority may order compensation for services rendered by a court-appointed attorney for the minor child.