

## Title 26 GAL

### Background Information Record as required by RCW 26.12.175(3)

**\*\*This will be posted on the Benton & Franklin Counties Superior Court Website for public viewing\*\***

I, Branden Silva, have the following background, knowledge, training, and experience to be on the ***Benton-Franklin Title 26 Guardian ad Litem Registry***:

- A. Highest level of formal education: Bachelor's Degree in Journalism from Washington State University (Pullman) with a Spanish minor.
- B. General training related to Guardian ad Litem's duties: I completed the initial training to be a Title 26 Guardian Ad Litem in spring 2012. This was a week-long course and following this I shadowed an established GAL and submitted a mock report based around a hypothetical case. In November 2012 I was approved by Judge Cameron Mitchell to begin taking cases. Aside from the subsequent caseload, I have participated in yearly training in applicable fields as required. In 2016 I was also added to the GAL registries in Yakima, Adams and Walla Walla counties.
- C. Specific training related to issues potentially faced by children in dissolution, custody, paternity, and other family law proceedings: In addition to my GAL caseload I also worked for 1.5 years as a family law paralegal. My work on these cases was extensive and my involvement often ranged from the initial petition to final documents. I would regularly speak with the families to draft narrative declarations of their experiences as well as draft parenting plans and ex parte documents such as restraining orders.
- D. Specific training or education related to child disability or developmental issues NA
- E. Number of years' experience as a Guardian ad Litem: 5 years
- F. Number of appointments as a Guardian ad Litem [as of today's date] and the county or counties of appointment:
  - a) Number of appointments: 85 (estimate)
  - b) Counties appointed in: Benton, Franklin, Yakima and Adams Counties
- G. I have been previously removed from a Guardian ad Litem registry pursuant to a grievance action:
  - No
  - Yes [Please explain each instance on a page and attach hereto. Include the name of the county, court and cause number(s).]
- H. I have founded allegations of abuse or neglect as defined in RCW 26.44.020:
  - No
  - Yes [Please explain each instance on a page and attach hereto.]
- I. A background check is completed annually by Benton/Franklin Counties Superior Court through Washington state patrol criminal identification section.

- J. A statement of my criminal history [as defined in RCW 9.94.A.030] for the period covering ten years prior to this date was supplied to Benton/Franklin Counties Superior Court.
- K. Other information not required by statute:
- a. I have the following professional licenses or certifications: Title 26 Guardian Ad Litem Certification
  - b. I have the following trial experience as a GAL: I have testified in several trials in Benton, Franklin and Yakima Counties. From memory, in each of the trials in which I have testified the respective judge went with my recommendations in the final ruling.
  - c. Other: I have dependency case experience through Adams County. In addition to the continuous caseload I have testified in several trials as well as participated in mediations, hearings and settlement conferences. I have been appointed as an expert witness on cases. I have worked on English and Spanish speaking cases.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Washington that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signature & Date



1/22/2019

Printed Name

BRANDEN SILVA