

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, Karen C. Koehmstedt, have the following background, knowledge, training, and experience to be on the *Benton-Franklin Title 26 Guardian ad Litem Registry*:

- A. My highest level of formal education: Juris Doctorate from University of Puget Sound (now Seattle University) School of Law awarded cum laude.
- B. General training related to Guardian ad Litem's duties: I have litigated custody, parenting plan, paternity and non-parent custody cases since 1990. I am on the Title 11 (Guardianships) Guardian ad Litem list and have conducted numerous investigations as a Title 11 Guardian ad Litem. I am a trained mediator, family law mediator, and practice collaborative law (specifically collaborative divorce.)
- C. Specific training related to issues potentially faced by children in dissolution, custody, paternity and other family law proceedings: Local Superior Court training on the following dates – September 2016, September 2015, October 2014, May 2013, May 2012, October 2010, January 1999 (24 hour initial training.) Introductory Collaborative Law Training 2008 (13 hours.)
- D. Specific training or education related to child disability or developmental issues: I have litigated dependency and termination of parental rights cases. These often involved parents or children with disabilities. I have heard many expert witnesses testify regarding the same. On the Title XI registry I have conducted many GAL investigations involving children (now 18) who have various forms of Autism. As a GAL appointed pursuant to SPR 98.16, I was appointed on a case involving a professional guardian breaching fiduciary duty to a disabled child.
- E. Number of years' experience as a Guardian ad Litem: 28 years (first appointment 1990)
- 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: 51 Total, of these 28 were Title 11 (Guardianship). The other 23 were either Title 26 (domestic relations cases,) minor settlements, or other appointments under the local court rule for Special Proceedings (SPR 98.16).
 - b) Counties appointed in: Benton and Franklin
- G. I have been previously removed from a Guardian ad Litem registry pursuant to a grievance action:
 - No
 - Yes
- H. I have founded allegations of abuse or neglect as defined in RCW 26.44.020:
 - No
 - Yes
- 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 9.94A.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: License to Practice law in the State of Washington. Court approved mediator, and arbitrator.
- b. I have the following trial experience as a GAL: I have testified in one domestic trial. Numerous court hearings as a Title 11 GAL.
- c. Other: I have drafted hundreds of parenting plans.

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

K. Koehnstedt 122818
Signature & Date

Karen Koehnstedt,
Printed Name
Attorney at Law PS