

Benton & Franklin Counties

Title 26 Family Law Guardian ad Litem (GAL) Certification Requirements

In accordance with Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) Requirements, Family Law GALs are required to complete the following.

INITIAL TRAINING/CERTIFICATION:

- Completion of training curriculum
- Completion of writing assignment
- Completion of practicum

Additionally, Family Law GALs are expected to have read and understood the statutes, local court rules and order of appointment prior to any investigation. Furthermore, GALs are expected to be familiar with the basic elements the Court will weigh in each case type and gather information accordingly. Before taking cases, Family Law GALs are required to complete a Practicum in the county in which application is made, unless the Court waives this requirement for good cause. **In Benton & Franklin Counties, Family Law GALs are required to complete the Practicum prior to being placed on the Registry.**

Benton & Franklin Counties' PRACTICUM REQUIREMENTS are as follows:

- Five (5) hours shadowing a mentor. *Contact the Registry Manager to locate a mentor. The mentor must be pre-authorized by the Registry Manager.* The focus should be on best practices. The prospective GAL should:
 - Observe a child interview
 - Observe an adult interview
 - Assist in information gathering and investigation
 - Assist in report writing **-AND-**
- Five (5) hours observing Title 26 cases in court. The focus should be on best practices. The prospective GAL should observe Family Law *GAL-involved* hearings if possible.
 - Benton County Title 26 cases are heard in court on Tuesdays in Kennewick.
 - Franklin County Title 26 cases are heard in court on Mondays in Pasco.
- If there are no mentors available, *and upon pre-authorization from the Registry Manager*, the prospective GAL should observe ten (10) hours of Title 26 hearings in court. Five (5) of these observation hours **must** be Family Law *GAL-involved* hearings.
- Prospective GALs are required to submit confirmation of Practicum hours prior to being placed on the GAL Registry. *See attached Practicum Verification form.*

Certified Family Law GALs are required to obtain CONTINUING EDUCATION as follows:

- 6 hours of live presentation or moderated videos annually
- Training can be in any of the topic areas covered in the initial training curriculum i.e.
 - Ethics and Professional Conduct
 - The Law and Legal Process (Family Law)
 - Investigation
 - Interviewing
 - Report Writing
 - Systems and Resources
 - Child Development
 - Chemical Dependency
 - Mental Health
 - Child Abuse and Neglect
 - Domestic Violence
 - Personal Safety
 - Cultural Competency

Benton & Franklin Counties Title 26 Family Law Guardian ad Litem (GAL) Practicum Verification

In Benton & Franklin Counties, Family Law GALs are required to complete a Practicum prior to being placed on the Registry, unless the Court waives this requirement for good cause. Additionally, this form must be submitted to the Registry Manager prior to being placed on the GAL Registry.

As a prospective Family Law GAL, I have contacted the Registry Manager to locate a mentor and the following mentor has been pre-authorized by the Registry Manager.

My mentor is: _____

As a prospective Family Law GAL, I have shadowed my mentor for five (5) hours and I have:

- Observed a child interview
- Observed an adult interview
- Assisted in information gathering and investigation
- Assisted in report writing

Mentor's signature: _____ Date: _____

-AND-

As a prospective Family Law GAL, I have observed five (5) hours of Title 26 hearings* in court. I observed Family Law *GAL-involved* hearings whenever possible.

- I observed ___ hours on _____ in Kennewick/Pasco (circle one).
- I observed ___ hours on _____ in Kennewick/Pasco (circle one).
- I observed ___ hours on _____ in Kennewick/Pasco (circle one).
- I observed ___ hours on _____ in Kennewick/Pasco (circle one).
- I observed ___ hours on _____ in Kennewick/Pasco (circle one).

-OR-

As a prospective Family Law GAL, I have been unable to locate a mentor and received pre-authorization from the Registry Manager to observe ten (10) hours of Title 26 hearings* in court to fulfill the Practicum requirements. **Five (5) of these hours were Family Law *GAL-involved* hearings.**

- I observed ___ hours on _____ in Kennewick/Pasco (circle one).
- I observed ___ hours on _____ in Kennewick/Pasco (circle one).
- I observed ___ hours on _____ in Kennewick/Pasco (circle one).
- I observed ___ hours on _____ in Kennewick/Pasco (circle one).
- I observed ___ hours on _____ in Kennewick/Pasco (circle one).
- I observed ___ hours of Family Law *GAL-involved* hearings on the following dates and have included case names or numbers:

Printed name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

*Benton County Title 26 cases are heard in court on Tuesdays in Kennewick. Franklin County Title 26 cases are heard in court on Mondays in Pasco.

For Official Use Only: Reviewed by: _____ Added to Registry Y/N Date _____

Comments _____

Benton & Franklin Counties Title 26 Family Law Guardian ad Litem (GAL) Practicum Waiver

In Benton & Franklin Counties, Family Law GALs are required to complete a Practicum prior to being placed on the Registry, unless the Court waives this requirement for good cause.

Benton & Franklin Counties' PRACTICUM REQUIREMENTS are as follows:

- Five (5) hours shadowing a mentor. The prospective GAL should:
 - Observe a child interview
 - Observe an adult interview
 - Assist in information gathering and investigation
 - Assist in report writing **-AND-**
- Five (5) hours observing Title 26 cases in court. **-OR-**
- If there are no mentors available, the prospective GAL should observe ten (10) hours of Title 26 hearings in court. Five (5) of these observation hours **must** be Family Law *GAL-involved* hearings.

I am requesting that the mentor requirement of the Practicum be waived for the following reasons:

I am requesting that the court observation requirement of the Practicum be waived for the following reasons:

Printed name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

For Official Use Only:
Reviewed by _____ Mentor Waived Y/N Court Observation Waived Y/N Date _____

Comments _____
