



POLICY B: GAL PROGRAM ADVISORY COUNCIL

Wyoming Guardians *Ad Litem* Program

Empowering youth & families through legal advocacy

SECTION ONE: PURPOSE, AUTHORITY, & SCOPE

- A. This policy was created pursuant to the Wyoming Guardians *Ad Litem* (GAL) Program Rules and Regulations, Chapter 1, § 2(b). The purpose of this policy is to set forth the guidelines and bylaws that govern membership and appointment of the GAL Program Advisory Council.
- B. This policy encompasses all guardians *ad litem* attorneys contracted or employed with the State of Wyoming, Office of the State Public Defender, Guardians Ad Litem Program to provide GAL services in Wyoming.
- C. The Wyoming Guardians *Ad Litem* Program Advisory Council (GPAC) is created as a centralized, internal policy council for the Wyoming GAL Program. The established mission of GPAC is to provide comprehensive and objective analysis and input on defined policy, contract, and budgetary issues to the GAL Program Administrator and the State Public Defender. The establishment of GPAC enhances and contributes to a more collaborative program model; resulting in enhanced policy and contract creation and development.

SECTION TWO: ESTABLISHMENT, PURPOSE, & FUNCTION

- A. There is established a GAL Program Advisory Council.
- B. The purpose of the GPAC shall be to provide policy input, analysis, and support to the GAL Program Administrator and the State Public Defender.
- C. The GPAC shall be centrally responsible for providing input and support on policies and projects proposed and undertaken by the Program. The GPAC shall be able to enhance operations of the Program by providing additional specialized policy expertise on the Program areas reviewed. The GPAC can also make suggestions regarding existing policy, projects, and resources of the GAL Program.
- D. The GPAC shall assist the GAL Program in development and execution of periodic GAL Program evaluations, development, enhancement, and public awareness.

SECTION THREE: MEMBERSHIP

- A. The Program Administrator may recommend candidates to be considered for membership on the GPAC. Such recommendations shall be provided to the State Public Defender who shall appoint the members from the GAL Program Administrator's recommendations.
- B. The GPAC is comprised of the Program Administrator or their designee on continuous terms, and the State Public Defender on continuous terms. Additional members shall include at least one full-time contracted or employed GAL, one GAL Program District Supervisor, one member of the GAL Program Permanency Unit, and two part-time contracted GALs.
- C. The members of the GPAC shall serve for a two-year term, which coincides with the state fiscal year of July 1 to June 30, except that two of the initial appointees shall serve a one-year term so that staggering terms of members are established.
- D. A substitute individual may be appointed as a member of the GPAC to fill an unexpired term of a member who resigns or otherwise vacates their position. A substitute member appointed to fill a vacancy in an unexpired term shall be appointed only for the remainder of the term but may be appointed for a full term thereafter.
- E. Members may be reappointed with no limit on the number of terms a member may serve.
- F. Members of the GPAC shall serve at the pleasure of the State Public Defender or the GAL Program Administrator.
- G. Current Members:
 - I. Dan Wilde, GAL Program Administrator: continuous terms
 - II. Diane M. Lozano, State Public Defender: continuous terms
 - III. Marc Thompson, Full-Time GAL: term expires July 1, 2014
 - IV. Cynthia Sweet, GAL Program District Supervisor: term expires July 1, 2013
 - V. Sandra Siel Kitchen, Part-Time GAL: term expires July 1, 2014
 - VI. David X. Banack, Part-Time GAL: term expires July 1, 2013
 - VII. Aaron Hockman, Permanency Unit: term expires July 1, 2014

SECTION THREE: ORGANIZATION

- A. The GPAC will meet at least quarterly at a place and time the GPAC members shall determine. The established meeting date does not preclude the GPAC from convening additional meetings.

SECTION FOUR: COMPENSATION

- A. Members of the GPAC shall serve without compensation.

SECTION FIVE: ADMINISTRATION

- A. The GAL Program shall provide administrative support to the GPAC.