



POLICY C: PROGRAM PANEL SELECTION

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 criteria for appointment to a GAL Program Panel.
- B. This policy encompasses all individuals seeking to attain a position on a Wyoming Guardians *ad litem* Program Panel to provide GAL services in Wyoming.

SECTION ONE: APPLICATION PROCESS

- C. The Wyoming GAL Program will release a call for GAL Program Panel applications biannually before the onset of each budget fiscal year on the Wyoming GAL Program website, for locations where contracts are open and available.
- D. Regardless of current status or placement on a GAL Program Panel, all attorneys interested in appointment to a GAL Program Panel position must submit an application biannually, for locations where applications have been opened. There is no right of renewal of any contract or agreement for any member of a GAL Program Panel.
- E. Deadlines for applications and other requirements will be outlined on the application with each application period.
- F. Applications received after posted period deadline will remain on-file with the GAL Program until the next available call for GAL Program Panel applications.
- G. Applications received not within the application period will remain on file with the GAL Program until the next available call for GAL Program Panel applications.
- H. Applications not completed in their entirety will not be accepted.
- I. Interviews will be conducted as needed.

SECTION THREE: ELIGIBILITY

- A. All applicants must be an attorney in good standing with the Wyoming State Bar Association.

- B. All applicants must have completed ten (10) initial hours of CLE. These hours must be approved by the GAL Program Administrator.
 - I. Applicants that have not completed the initial CLE requirement must attach a written plan of obtaining the CLE requirement in order for their application to be accepted. This plan must be approved by the GAL Program Administrator before their application will receive further consideration.
- C. All applicants must have completed the GAL Program New Attorney Training available on the GAL Program Website. Proof of completion must be attached to the application.
- D. All applicants must be knowledgeable in state and federal juvenile court law, child welfare law, and children's representation.

SECTION FOUR: CRITERIA & CONSIDERATIONS

- A. The GAL Program Administrator and the State Public Defender will use the following criteria and considerations when selecting applicants for a position on a GAL Program Panel:
 - I. Knowledge and experience in juvenile court law, child welfare law, and representation of children.
 - II. Knowledge and experience with trials and representing children as a guardian *ad litem*.
 - III. Attendance at prior GAL Program trainings and conferences.
 - IV. Prior experiences with attorneys appointed to a GAL Program Panel including concerns, issues, or problems about an attorney's performance including formal complaints, informal complaints, survey results, compliance and audit investigations, and billing errors or trends.
 - V. Current trends in caseloads of the Program, the addition of full-time state employees or contractors, or the reorganization of GAL Program Districts.
 - VI. Information obtained through reference checks or stakeholder conversations.
- B. It is the position of the GAL Program to attain less overall attorneys with the majority being of full-time status for the purpose of increasing attorney effectiveness and child welfare specialization, and decreasing cost and time needed to administer the GAL Program.