



Superior Court
Of Snohomish County

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 36-10

**Management of Guardians ad Litem in Domestic Relation
Appointments**

October 28th, 2010

In order to exercise management over Guardian ad Litem services, to monitor timeliness and quality of reports and to ensure accountability of Guardians ad Litem, Snohomish County Superior Court adopts a Supplemental Order Appointing Guardian ad Litem for management of Guardian ad Litem Appointments in Domestic Relations proceedings pursuant to RCW 26.09, 26.10 and 26.26.

Once a Domestic Relations matter comes on before a Judge or Court Commissioner and it appears that an investigation and report by a Guardian ad Litem is necessary to aid the court in making a decision, the court shall enter both an Order Appointing Guardian ad Litem (WPF DR 04.0200) and a Supplemental Order Appointing a Guardian ad Litem. The Supplemental Order Appointing Guardian ad Litem shall contain the following provisions:

1. Both parties shall report in person to the Superior Court Programs Office, 1st Floor of the Courthouse, Room #C140 by time and date certain;

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2. Both parties shall obtain the Guardian ad Litem Personal Information Form from the Programs Office, complete these forms, and send it to the appointed GAL within 48 hours after receiving a copy of this order (no later than date certain);
3. In the event that multiple Guardians ad Litem are named in the order, the GAL Programs staff will contact the Guardians ad Litem and, determine who will be appointed within one (1) business day. In the event the GALs named in the Order are not available, GAL Program staff will assign and notify the parties prior to the deadline stated in #2;
4. Both parties shall obtain supplemental materials, including questionnaires and release forms from the Guardian ad Litem at the deadline determined by the Guardian ad Litem;
5. Both parties shall pay their portion of the retainer (see section 3.5, page 3, Order Appointing Guardian ad Litem) by date certain; The Guardian ad Litem will report compliance to GAL Programs staff;
6. The Guardian ad Litem shall inform the court of any failure to comply with any of the above requirements **on the Friday** prior to the Compliance Hearing. Non-compliant parties must attend the scheduled Compliance Hearing if their portion of the retainer is not paid and their required paperwork is not completed and turned in.
7. The Court may strike pleadings of the non-complying/non-attending party;
8. Compliance Hearings are typically held on the 3rd Wednesday following the date of the order and are court confirmed;

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9. The Guardian ad Litem is authorized to require that parties comply with an evaluation, assessment or other testing for issues designated in section 3.2, page, 2, Order Appointing Guardian ad Litem.

Dated this ____ day of October 2010

Ellen J. Fair, Presiding Judge

Supersedes: Administrative Order 36-10 Signed July 1, 2010