

Utah Office of Guardian ad Litem  
**Utah Private Attorney Guardian ad Litem Program**

# Application for Participation



## **Standing the Shoes of the Child**

**Please Note:** Due to the nature of the position to which you are being considered, both criminal and DCFS background checks are required. Convictions and/or reported findings of abuse or neglect can be used to disqualify you when the specific circumstance indicates that the services of the applicant would be manifestly inconsistent with the scope and substance of child representation and the PGAL Program.

**Deliver Application to:**  
**Private Attorney Guardian ad Litem Program**  
**Utah Office of Guardian ad Litem**  
**450 South State Street, N31**  
**P.O. Box 140241**  
**Salt Lake City, UT 84114-0241**

## **APPLICATION FOR THE PRIVATE ATTORNEY GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROGRAM**

Applicants Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Utah Bar #: \_\_\_\_\_

Firm Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Office Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been arrested or convicted for any crime (excluding minor traffic citations)?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If you answered "yes", provide the following information:

| Approximate Date | Police Agency Charge | Disposition |
|------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| _____            | _____                | _____       |
| _____            | _____                | _____       |

In connection with my application for being eligible to participate in the Private Attorney Guardian ad Litem Program, which involves working with children, I hereby authorize the Utah Office of Guardian ad Litem to have a certified copy of my past and present work, education and law enforcement records, to ascertain any and all information which may be pertinent to my qualifications to act as a Private Attorney Guardian ad Litem. I do hereby release the Utah Office of Guardian ad Litem, its employees, agents, and personnel from any liability or damages arising out of the applicant furnishing such information. I further agree that a copy of this release shall function as an original.

I hereby certify that all statements made on this form are true and complete. I understand that any mis-statement of material facts will subject me to disqualification. I understand that making a false written statement on this form may constitute a violation of Utah State law 76-8-504 (written false statement), and prosecution for a Class B Misdemeanor could result.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature in full

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# UTAH PRIVATE ATTORNEY GUARDIAN AD LITEM PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby attest to and agree to the following conditions of participation and eligibility for case assignment as a private attorney guardian ad litem under UCA section 78A-2-228 and Rule 4-906 of the Utah Rules of Judicial Administration, as administered by the Office of Guardian ad Litem (Office).

1. \_\_\_\_\_ I am a member in good standing of the Utah State Bar (bar # \_\_\_\_\_) and actively practice law for a minimum of six (6) months (if not, projected date: \_\_\_\_\_).
2. \_\_\_\_\_ I will submit letters of recommendation from two (2) experienced Utah law attorneys attesting to my ability and proficiency in taking on the role of private attorney guardian ad litem (e.g., working with children, litigation and negotiation skills).
3. \_\_\_\_\_ In order to be considered for participation in the private attorney guardian ad litem program and eligibility to be assigned cases therein, I submit myself to being evaluated at any time at the discretion of the Office, particularly in regard to, but not limited to, conduct or behavior inconsistent with or contrary to the Office's mission and Best Practice Guidelines, or for failure to perform in a competent, professional, ethical, or appropriate manner.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ I submit to any information the Office may obtain from judges, attorneys, service providers, parties, etc. who have interacted with me in relation to my relation to my willingness and/or ability to perform as a private attorney guardian ad litem. I agree to conduct myself in accordance with the mission of the Office and adhere to the Office's Best Practice Guidelines as are applicable to district court cases, and adhere to Standards of Professionalism and Civility Rule 14-301, Rules Governing the Utah State Bar.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ In participating in social media for personal purposes, I recognize that my actions online and content posted can negatively affect the reputation of an undermined public trust in those who are assigned by the Office to represent the best interests of minor children. I agree that my online presence will reflect the professional standards of the Utah State Bar and the Office and will advance, and not jeopardize, its mission.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ I agree to submit to the Office of Guardian ad Litem a **DCFS Child Abuse Data Base report and like data base of any state in which I resided as an adult**, and submit to the judgement of the Director of the Office of Guardian ad Litem as to whether any information referenced therein makes me ineligible for appointment.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ I agree to submit to the Office of Guardian ad Litem a **certified copy of a BCI criminal background report** and to submit to the judgment of the Director of the Office

of Guardian ad Litem as to whether any offenses or convictions referenced therein make me ineligible for appointment.

8. \_\_\_\_\_ I agree to accept at least one **pro bono** PGAL case annually.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ I understand that participation in the PGAL program is subject at all times to the absolute discretion of the Director of the Office of Guardian ad Litem. I agree to be removed from consideration as a private guardian ad litem or from the participation list of eligible PGALs in the event of conduct or behavior inconsistent with or contrary to the Office's mission and Best Practice Guidelines, the Utah State Bar's Standards of Professionalism and Civility, or for failure to perform in a competent professional, ethical, or appropriate manner as determined by the Office.

Dated this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

## **PRIVATE ATTORNEY GUARDIAN AD LITEM APPLICANT QUESTIONNAIRE**

Please answer the following questions in less than 200 words for each question:

1. Why do you believe children may need legal representation in district court cases involving protective orders or disputes over custody and/or parent-time?

2. What do you believe may be important actions that should be taken when representing a child, particularly in relation to the other parties in the case?

3. What does representing the “best interests” of the child mean to you?