

OHIO	Legal Authority
	GENERAL DUTIES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE CHILD'S LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE
<p><b>1. General Duties:</b>  <i>Timely appointment, mandatory or discretionary, attorney or lay person, represent child's interests, undertake basic obligations, address conflict situations, address special needs and disabilities, and accommodate client preferences.</i></p>	<p>- A child, the child's parents or custodian, or any other person in loco parentis of the child is entitled to representation by legal counsel at all stages of the proceedings under this chapter or <a href="#">Chapter 2152</a> of the Revised Code. If, as an indigent person, a party is unable to employ counsel, the party is entitled to have counsel provided for the person pursuant to <a href="#">Chapter 120</a> of the Revised Code except in civil matters in which the juvenile court is exercising jurisdiction pursuant to division (<a href="#">A</a>)(2), (3), (9), (10), (11), (12), or (13); (<a href="#">B</a>)(2), (3), (4), (5), or (6); (<a href="#">C</a>); (<a href="#">D</a>); or (<a href="#">F</a>)(1) or (2) of section <a href="#">2151.23</a> of the Revised Code. If a party appears without counsel, the court shall ascertain whether the party knows of the party's right to counsel and of the party's right to be provided with counsel if the party is an indigent person. The court may continue the case to enable a party to obtain counsel, to be represented by the county public defender or the joint county public defender, or to be appointed counsel upon request pursuant to <a href="#">Chapter 120</a> of the Revised Code. Counsel must be provided for a child not represented by the child's parent, guardian, or custodian. If the interests of two or more such parties conflict, separate counsel shall be provided for each of them...</p> <p>Any report or part thereof concerning such child, which is used in the hearing and is pertinent thereto, shall for good cause shown be made available to any attorney at law representing such child and to any attorney at law representing the parents, custodian, or guardian of such child, upon written request prior to any hearing involving such child. OHIO REV. <a href="#">CODE § 2151.352</a>.</p> <p>- "Party" means a child who is the subject of a juvenile court proceeding, the child's spouse, if any, the child's parent or parents, or if the parent of a child is a child, the parent of that parent, in appropriate cases, the child's custodian, guardian, or guardian ad litem, the state, and any other person specifically designated by the court. <a href="#">OH. CT. R. JUV. PROC. 2(Y)</a>.</p> <p>- (A) <b>Assistance of counsel.</b> Every party shall have the right to be represented by counsel and every child, parent, custodian, or other person in loco parentis the right to appointed counsel if indigent. These rights shall arise when a person becomes a party to a juvenile court proceeding. When the complaint alleges that a child is an abused child, the court must appoint an attorney to represent the interests of the child. This rule shall not be construed to provide for a right to appointed counsel in cases in which that right is not otherwise provided for by constitution or statute.</p> <p>(3) If a court appoints a person who is not an attorney admitted to practice in this state to be a guardian ad litem, the court may appoint an attorney admitted to practice in this state to serve as attorney for the guardian ad litem. <a href="#">OH. CT. R. JUV. PROC. 4</a>.</p>

- (A) The court shall appoint a guardian ad litem, subject to rules adopted by the supreme court, to protect the interest of a child in any proceeding concerning an alleged or adjudicated delinquent child or unruly child when either of the following applies:

(1) The child has no parent, guardian, or legal custodian.

(2) The court finds that there is a conflict of interest between the child and the child's parent, guardian, or legal custodian.

(B)(1) The court shall appoint a guardian ad litem, subject to rules adopted by the supreme court, to protect the interest of a child in any proceeding concerning an alleged abused or neglected child and in any proceeding held pursuant to section [2151.414](#) of the Revised Code. The guardian ad litem so appointed shall not be the attorney responsible for presenting the evidence alleging that the child is an abused or neglected child and shall not be an employee.

...

(D) The court shall require the guardian ad litem to faithfully discharge the guardian ad litem's duties and, upon the guardian ad litem's failure to faithfully discharge the guardian ad litem's duties, shall discharge the guardian ad litem and appoint another guardian ad litem. The court may fix the compensation for the service of the guardian ad litem, which compensation shall be paid from the treasury of the county, subject to rules adopted by the supreme court.

...

(G) In any case involving an alleged or adjudicated abused or neglected child or an agreement for the voluntary surrender of temporary or permanent custody of a child that is made in accordance with section [5103.15](#) of the Revised Code, the court shall appoint the guardian ad litem in each case as soon as possible after the complaint is filed, the request for an extension of the temporary custody agreement is filed with the court, or the request for court approval of the permanent custody agreement is filed. In any case involving an alleged dependent child in which the parent of the child appears to be mentally incompetent or is under eighteen years of age, there is a conflict of interest between the child and the child's parents, guardian, or custodian, or the court believes that the parent of the child is not capable of representing the best interest of the child, the court shall appoint a guardian ad

	<p>litem for the child. . . .</p> <p>(H) If the guardian ad litem for an alleged or adjudicated abused, neglected, or dependent child is an attorney admitted to the practice of law in this state, the guardian ad litem also may serve as counsel to the ward. Until the supreme court adopts rules regarding service as a guardian ad litem that regulate conflicts between a person's role as guardian ad litem and as counsel, if a person is serving as guardian ad litem and counsel for a child and either that person or the court finds that a conflict may exist between the person's roles as guardian ad litem and as counsel, the court shall relieve the person of duties as guardian ad litem and appoint someone else as guardian ad litem for the child. If the court appoints a person who is not an attorney admitted to the practice of law in this state to be a guardian ad litem, the court also may appoint an attorney admitted to the practice of law in this state to serve as counsel for the guardian ad litem.</p> <p>...</p> <p>(J)(1) When the court appoints a guardian ad litem pursuant to this section, it shall appoint a qualified volunteer or court appointed special advocate whenever one is available and the appointment is appropriate.</p> <p>(2) Upon request, the department of job and family services shall provide for the training of volunteer guardians ad litem. OHIO REV. <a href="#">CODE § 2151.281</a>.</p> <p>- (C) <b>Guardian ad litem as counsel.</b> When the guardian ad litem is an attorney admitted to practice in this state, the guardian may also serve as counsel to the ward providing no conflict between the roles exist.</p> <p>(2) If a person is serving as guardian ad litem and as attorney for a ward and either that person or the court finds a conflict between the responsibilities of the role of attorney and that of guardian ad litem, the court shall appoint another person as guardian ad litem for the ward. <a href="#">OH. CT. R. JUV. PROC. 4</a>.</p>
<p><b>2. Out of Court - Actions to be Taken:</b> <i>Meet with child, undertake an investigation, provide advice and counseling, file pleadings, request</i></p>	<p>- (A) If a complaint filed with respect to a child pursuant to section <a href="#">2151.27</a> of the Revised Code alleges that a child is an abused, neglected, or dependent child, any individual or entity that is listed in divisions (D)(1)(a) to (k) of section <a href="#">2151.14</a> of the Revised Code and that is investigating whether the child is an abused, neglected, or dependent child, has custody of the child, is preparing a social history for the child, or is providing any services for the child may request any board of education, governing body of a chartered nonpublic school, public children services agency, private child placing agency, probation department, law enforcement agency, or prosecuting</p>

*services, address special  
needs, negotiate  
settlements*

attorney that has any records related to the child to provide the individual or entity with a copy of the records. The request shall be in writing, describe the type of records requested, explain the need for the records, be accompanied by a copy of the complaint, and describe the relationship of the requesting individual or entity to the child. The individual or entity shall provide a copy of the request to the child in question, the attorney or guardian ad litem of the child, and the parent, guardian, or custodian of the child. OHIO REV. [CODE § 2151.1441\(a\)](#).

- (D)(1) In determining the best interest of a child at a hearing held pursuant to division (A) of this section or for the purposes of division (A)(4) or (5) of section [2151.353](#) or division (C) of section [2151.415](#) of the Revised Code, the court shall consider all relevant factors, including, but not limited to, the following:

(b) The wishes of the child, as expressed directly by the child or through the child's guardian ad litem, with due regard for the maturity of the child;

... OHIO REV. [CODE § 2151.414\(D\)](#).

**- (D) Responsibilities of a guardian ad litem**

In order to provide the court with relevant information and an informed recommendation regarding the child's best interest, a guardian ad litem shall perform, at a minimum, the responsibilities stated in this division, unless impracticable or inadvisable to do so.

(1) A guardian ad litem shall represent the best interest of the child for whom the guardian is appointed.

Representation of best interest may be inconsistent with the wishes of the child whose interest the guardian ad litem represents.

(2) A guardian ad litem shall maintain independence, objectivity and fairness as well as the appearance of fairness in dealings with parties and professionals, both in and out of the courtroom and shall have no ex parte communications with the court regarding the merits of the case.

(3) A guardian ad litem is an officer of the court and shall act with respect and courtesy to the parties at all times.

...

(5) A non-attorney guardian ad litem must avoid engaging in conduct that constitutes the unauthorized practice of law, be vigilant in performing the guardian ad litem's duties and request that the court appoint legal counsel, or otherwise employ the services of an attorney, to undertake appropriate legal actions on behalf of the guardian ad litem in the case.

(6) A guardian ad litem who is an attorney may file pleadings, motions and other documents as appropriate under the applicable rules of procedure.

(7) When a court appoints an attorney to serve as both the guardian ad litem and attorney for a child, the attorney shall advocate for the child's best interest and the child's wishes in accord with the Rules of Professional Conduct.

Attorneys who are to serve as both guardian ad litem and attorney should be aware of [Rule 3.7 of the Rules of Professional Conduct](#) and act accordingly.

(8) When a guardian ad litem determines that a conflict exists between the child's best interest and the child's wishes, the guardian ad litem shall, at the earliest practical time, request in writing that the court promptly resolve the conflict by entering appropriate orders.

(9) A guardian ad litem shall avoid any actual or apparent conflict of interest arising from any relationship or activity including, but not limited to, those of employment or business or from professional or personal contacts with parties or others involved in the case. A guardian ad litem shall avoid self-dealing or associations from which the guardian ad litem might benefit, directly or indirectly, except from compensation for services as a guardian ad litem.

(10) Upon becoming aware of any actual or apparent conflict of interest, a guardian ad litem shall immediately take action to resolve the conflict, shall advise the court and the parties of the action taken and may resign from the matter with leave of court, or seek court direction as necessary. Because a conflict of interest may arise at any time, a guardian ad litem has an ongoing duty to comply with this division.

(11) Unless excepted by statute, by court rule consistent with this rule, or by order of court pursuant to this rule, a guardian ad litem shall meet the qualifications and satisfy all training and continuing education requirements under this rule and under any local court rules governing guardians ad litem. A guardian ad litem shall meet the qualifications for guardians ad litem for each county where the guardian ad litem serves and shall promptly advise each court of any grounds for disqualification or unavailability to serve.

(12) A guardian ad litem shall be responsible for providing the court or its designee with a statement indicating compliance with all initial and continuing educational and training requirements so the court may maintain the files required in division (G) of this rule. The compliance statement shall include information detailing the date, location, contents and credit hours received for any relevant training course.

(13) A guardian ad litem shall make reasonable efforts to become informed about the facts of the case and to contact all parties. In order to provide the court with relevant information and an informed recommendation as to the child's best interest, a guardian ad litem shall, at a minimum, do the following, unless impracticable or inadvisable because of the age of the child or the specific circumstances of a particular case:

- (a) Meet with and interview the child and observe the child with each parent, foster parent, guardian or physical custodian and conduct at least one interview with the child where none of these individuals is present;
- (b) Visit the child at his or her residence in accordance with any standards established by the court in which the guardian ad litem is appointed;
- (c) Ascertain the wishes of the child;
- (d) Meet with and interview the parties, foster parents and other significant individuals who may have relevant knowledge regarding the issues of the case;
- (e) Review pleadings and other relevant court documents in the case in which the guardian ad litem is appointed;

- (f) Review criminal, civil, educational and administrative records pertaining to the child and, if appropriate, to the child's family or to other parties in the case;
- (g) Interview school personnel, medical and mental health providers, child protective services workers and relevant court personnel and obtain copies of relevant records;
- (h) Recommend that the court order psychological evaluations, mental health and/or substance abuse assessments, or other evaluations or tests of the parties as the guardian ad litem deems necessary or helpful to the court; and
- (i) Perform any other investigation necessary to make an informed recommendation regarding the best interest of the child.
- (14) A guardian ad litem shall immediately identify himself or herself as a guardian ad litem when contacting individuals in the course of a particular case and shall inform these individuals about the guardian ad litem's role and that documents and information obtained may become part of court proceedings.
- (15) As an officer of the court, a guardian ad litem shall make no disclosures about the case or the investigation except in reports to the court or as necessary to perform the duties of a guardian ad litem. A guardian ad litem shall maintain the confidential nature of personal identifiers, as defined in Rule 44 of the Rules of Superintendence, or addresses where there are allegations of domestic violence or risk to a party's or child's safety. A guardian ad litem may recommend that the court restrict access to the report or a portion of the report, after trial, to preserve the privacy, confidentiality, or safety of the parties or the person for whom the guardian ad litem was appointed in accordance with Rule 45 of the Rules of Superintendence. The court may, upon application, and under such conditions as may be necessary to protect the witnesses from potential harm, order disclosure of or access to the information that addresses the need to challenge the truth of the information received from the confidential source.
- (16) A guardian ad litem shall perform responsibilities in a prompt and timely manner, and, if necessary, an attorney guardian ad litem may request timely court reviews and judicial intervention in writing with notice to parties or affected agencies.
- (17) A guardian ad litem who is to be paid by the court or a party, shall keep accurate records of the time spent, services rendered, and expenses incurred in each case and file an itemized statement and accounting with the court and provide a copy to each party or other entity responsible for payment. OHIO [SUP. R. 48](#).

**- (F) Reports of guardians ad litem**

A guardian ad litem shall prepare a written final report, including recommendations to the court, within the times set forth in this division. The report shall detail the activities performed, hearings attended, persons interviewed, documents reviewed, experts consulted and all other relevant information considered by the guardian ad litem in reaching the guardian ad litem's recommendations and in accomplishing the duties required by statute, by court rule, and in the court's Order of Appointment. In addition, the following provisions shall apply to guardian ad litem reports in the juvenile and domestic relations divisions of Courts of Common Pleas:

- (1) In juvenile abuse, neglect, and dependency cases and actions to terminate parental rights:

	<p>(a) All reports, written or oral, shall be used by the court to ensure that the guardian ad litem has performed those responsibilities required by section 2151.281 of the Revised Code.</p> <p>(b) Oral and written reports may address the substantive allegations before the court, but shall not be considered as conclusive on the issues.</p> <p>(c) Unless waived by all parties or unless the due date is extended by the court, the final report shall be filed with the court and made available to the parties for inspection no less than seven days before the dispositional hearing. Written reports may be accessed in person or by phone by the parties or their legal representatives. A copy shall be provided to the court at the hearing.</p> <p>...</p> <p>(e) A guardian ad litem also may file an interim report, written or oral, any time prior to the dispositional hearing and prior to hearings on actions to terminate parental rights. Written reports may be accessed in person or by phone by the parties or their legal representatives.</p> <p>(f) Any written interim report shall be filed with the court and made available to the parties for inspection no less than seven days before a hearing, unless the due date is extended by the court. Written reports may be accessed in person or by phone by the parties or their legal representatives. A copy of the interim report shall be provided to the court at the hearing...OHIO <a href="#">SUP. R. 48</a>.</p>
<p><b>3. In Court - Active Participation in Hearings:</b> <i>Appear in court, explain proceedings to client, present evidence, ensure child is present, expand scope of representation into other needed areas, and undertake certain obligations post-disposition.</i></p>	<p><b>- (D) Responsibilities of a guardian ad litem</b></p> <p>...</p> <p>(4) A guardian ad litem shall appear and participate in any hearing for which the duties of a guardian ad litem or any issues substantially within a guardian ad litem's duties and scope of appointment are to be addressed...OHIO <a href="#">SUP. R. 48</a>.</p> <p><b>- (F) Reports of guardians ad litem</b></p> <p>A guardian ad litem shall prepare a written final report, including recommendations to the court, within the times set forth in this division. The report shall detail the activities performed, hearings attended, persons interviewed, documents reviewed, experts consulted and all other relevant information considered by the guardian ad litem in reaching the guardian ad litem's recommendations and in accomplishing the duties required by statute, by court rule, and in the court's Order of Appointment. In addition, the following provisions shall apply to guardian ad litem reports in the juvenile and domestic relations divisions of Courts of Common Pleas:</p> <p>(1) In juvenile abuse, neglect, and dependency cases and actions to terminate parental rights:</p> <p>...</p> <p>(d) A guardian ad litem shall be available to testify at the dispositional hearing and may orally supplement the final report at the conclusion of the hearing...OHIO <a href="#">SUP. R. 48</a>.</p>



<p>4. <b>Post-Hearing:</b> Review courts order, communicate order to child, and monitor implementation of orders.</p>	<p>- No later than one year after the earlier of the date the complaint in the case was filed or the child was first placed in shelter care, a party may ask the court to extend an order for protective supervision for six months or to terminate the order. A party requesting extension or termination of the order shall file a written request for the extension or termination with the court and give notice of the proposed extension or termination in writing before the end of the day after the day of filing it to all parties and the child's guardian ad litem. If a public children services agency or private child placing agency requests termination of the order, the agency shall file a written status report setting out the facts supporting termination of the order at the time it files the request with the court. If no party requests extension or termination of the order, the court shall notify the parties that the court will extend the order for six months or terminate it and that it may do so without a hearing unless one of the parties requests a hearing. All parties and the guardian ad litem shall have seven days from the date a notice is sent pursuant to this division to object to and request a hearing on the proposed extension or termination. OHIO REV. <a href="#">CODE § 2151.353(G)(1)</a>.</p> <p>- Any party may propose a change to a substantive part of the case plan, including, but not limited to, the child's placement and the visitation rights of any party. A party proposing a change to the case plan shall file the proposed change with the court and give notice of the proposed change in writing before the end of the day after the day of filing it to all parties and the child's guardian ad litem. All parties and the guardian ad litem shall have seven days from the date the notice is sent to object to and request a hearing on the proposed change. OHIO REV. <a href="#">CODE § 2151.412(F)(2)</a>.</p>
<p>5. <b>Appellate Advocacy:</b> Decision to appeal, withdrawal, participation in appeal, conclusion by appeal.</p>	<p><i>There are no explicit requirements or provisions of law regarding the role or participation of counsel or GALs on appeal.</i></p>
<p>6. <b>Cessation of Representation:</b> Contacts post representation, if any.</p>	<p>- <b>(F) Withdrawal of counsel or guardian ad litem.</b> An attorney or guardian ad litem may withdraw only with the consent of the court upon good cause shown. <a href="#">OH. CT. R. JUV. PROC. 4</a>.</p> <p>- The guardian ad litem or the guardian ad litem's replacement shall continue to serve until any of the following occur:</p> <p>(1) The complaint is dismissed or the request for an extension of a temporary custody agreement or for court approval of the permanent custody agreement is withdrawn or denied;</p>



	<p>(2) All dispositional orders relative to the child have terminated;</p> <p>(3) The legal custody of the child is granted to a relative of the child, or to another person;</p> <p>(4) The child is placed in an adoptive home or, at the court's discretion, a final decree of adoption is issued with respect to the child;</p> <p>(5) The child reaches the age of eighteen if the child is not mentally retarded, developmentally disabled, or physically impaired or the child reaches the age of twenty-one if the child is mentally retarded, developmentally disabled, or physically impaired;</p> <p>(6) The guardian ad litem resigns or is removed by the court and a replacement is appointed by the court.</p> <p>If a guardian ad litem ceases to serve a child pursuant to <a href="#">division (G)(4) of this section</a> and the petition for adoption with respect to the child is denied or withdrawn prior to the issuance of a final decree of adoption or prior to the date an interlocutory order of adoption becomes final, the juvenile court shall reappoint a guardian ad litem for that child. The public children services agency or private child placing agency with permanent custody of the child shall notify the juvenile court if the petition for adoption is denied or withdrawn.</p> <p>(H) If the guardian ad litem for an alleged or adjudicated abused, neglected, or dependent child is an attorney admitted to the practice of law in this state, the guardian ad litem also may serve as counsel to the ward. Until the supreme court adopts rules regarding service as a guardian ad litem that regulate conflicts between a person's role as guardian ad litem and as counsel, if a person is serving as guardian ad litem and counsel for a child and either that person or the court finds that a conflict may exist between the person's roles as guardian ad litem and as counsel, the court shall relieve the person of duties as guardian ad litem and appoint someone else as guardian ad litem for the child. If the court appoints a person who is not an attorney admitted to the practice of law in this state to be a guardian ad litem, the court also may appoint an attorney admitted to the practice of law in this state to serve as counsel for the guardian ad litem... OHIO REV. <a href="#">CODE § 2151.281</a>.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Organizational and Administrative Supports for the Child Representative</b></p>
<p><b>7. General Representation Rules:</b>  <i>Administrative structure is clear for appointment, support and</i></p>	<p>- (J)(1) When the court appoints a guardian ad litem pursuant to this section, it shall appoint a qualified volunteer or court appointed special advocate whenever one is available and the appointment is appropriate... OHIO REV. <a href="#">CODE § 2151.281</a>.</p> <p>- <b>(G) Responsibilities of the court</b></p>

<p><i>accountability of the CR. The child's representative is independent from the court</i></p>	<p>In order to ensure that only qualified individuals perform the duties of guardians ad litem and that the requirements of this rule are met, each court appointing guardians ad litem shall do all of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Maintain a public list of approved guardians ad litem while maintaining individual privacy under Rules 44 through 47 of the Rules of Superintendence.</li> <li>(2) Establish criteria, which include all requirements of this rule, for appointment and removal of guardians ad litem and procedures to ensure an equitable distribution of the work load among the guardians ad litem on the list.</li> <li>(3) Appoint or contract with a person to coordinate the application and appointment process, keep the files and records required by this rule, maintain information regarding training opportunities, receive written comments and complaints regarding the performance of guardians ad litem practicing before that court and perform other duties as assigned by the court.</li> <li>(4) Maintain files for all applicants and for individuals approved for appointment as guardians ad litem with the court. The files shall contain all records and information required by this rule, and by local rules, for the selection and service of guardians ad litem including a certificate or other satisfactory proof of compliance with training requirements.</li> <li>(5) Require all applicants to submit a resume or information sheet stating the applicant's training, experience and expertise demonstrating the person's ability to successfully perform the responsibilities of a guardian ad litem.</li> <li>(6) Conduct, or cause to be conducted, a criminal and civil background check and investigation of information relevant to the applicant's fitness to serve as a guardian ad litem.</li> <li>(7) Conduct, at least annually, a review of its list to determine that all individuals are in compliance with the training and education requirements of this rule and local rules, that they have performed satisfactorily on all assigned cases during the preceding calendar year and are otherwise qualified to serve.</li> <li>(8) Require all individuals on its list to certify annually they are unaware of any circumstances that would disqualify them from serving and to report the training they have attended to comply with division (E) of this rule.</li> <li>(9) Each court shall develop a process or local rule and appoint a person for accepting and considering written comments and complaints regarding the performance of guardians ad litem practicing before that court. A copy of comments and complaints submitted to the court shall be provided to the guardian ad litem who is the subject of the complaint or comment. The person appointed may forward any comments and complaints to the administrative judge of the court for consideration and appropriate action. Dispositions by the court shall be made promptly. The court shall maintain a written record in the guardian ad litem's file regarding the nature and disposition of any comment or complaint and shall notify the person making the comment or complaint and the subject guardian ad litem of the disposition. OHIO <a href="#">SUP. R. 48</a>.</li> </ol>
<p><b>8. Lawyer Training:</b> <i>Child representative trained, on-going training provided, new</i></p>	<p>- In order to assist attorneys in meeting the requirements of Superintendence Rule 48, regional training is available through the Supreme Court of Ohio Judicial College. See <a href="http://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/GAL/default.asp">http://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/GAL/default.asp</a>.</p> <p><b>- (E) Training requirements</b></p>

<p><i>attorneys provided senior lawyer mentorship.</i></p>	<p>In order to serve as a guardian ad litem, an applicant shall have, at a minimum, the following training:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Successful completion of a pre-service training course to qualify for appointment and thereafter, successful completion of continuing education training in each succeeding calendar year to qualify for continued appointment.</li> <li>(2) The pre-service training course must be the six hour guardian ad litem pre-service course provided by the Supreme Court of Ohio, the Ohio CASA/GAL Association's pre-service training program, or with prior approval of the appointing court, be a course at least six hours in length that covers the topic areas in division (E) (3).</li> <li>(3) To meet the requirements of this rule, the pre-service course shall include training on all the following topics: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Human needs and child development including, but not limited to, stages of child development;</li> <li>(b) Communication and diversity including, but not limited to, communication skills with children and adults, interviewing skills, methods of critical questioning, use of open- ended questions, understanding the perspective of the child, sensitivity, building trust, multicultural awareness, and confidentiality;</li> <li>(c) Preventing child abuse and neglect including, but not limited to, assessing risk and safety;</li> <li>(d) Family and child issues including, but not limited to, family dynamics, substance abuse and its effects, basic psychopathology for adults and children, domestic violence and its effects;</li> <li>(e) Legal framework including, but not limited to, records checks, accessing, assessing and appropriate protocol, a guardian ad litem's role in court, local resources and service practice, report content, mediation and other types of dispute resolution.</li> </ol> </li> <li>(4) The continuing education course must be at least three hours in length and be provided by the Supreme Court of Ohio or by the Ohio CASA/GAL Association, or with prior approval of the appointing court, be a training that complies with division (5) of this rule.</li> <li>(5) To meet the requirements of this rule, the three hour continuing education course <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Be specifically designed for continuing education of guardians ad litem and not pre- service education; and</li> <li>(b) Consist of advanced education related to topics identified in division (E)(3) (a)–(e) of this rule.</li> </ol> </li> <li>(6) If a guardian ad litem fails to complete a three hour continuing education course within any calendar year, that person shall not be eligible to serve as a guardian ad litem until this continuing education requirement is satisfied. If the person's gap in continuing education is three calendar years or less, the person shall qualify to serve after completing a three hour continuing education course offered under this rule. If the gap in continuing education is more than three calendar years that person must complete a six hour pre-service education course to qualify to serve.</li> <li>(7) An individual who is currently serving as a guardian ad litem on the effective date of this rule, or who has served during the five years immediately preceding the effective date, shall have one year from the effective date to obtain the required six hour pre-service training in order to avoid removal from the court's list of approved guardians ad litem.</li> <li>(8) Attendance at an Ohio Guardian ad Litem Training Program approved by the Supreme Court of Ohio or at an Ohio CASA/Guardian Association pre-service training program at any time prior to the effective date of this rule</li> </ol>
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shall be deemed compliance with the pre-service training requirement. OHIO [SUP. R. 48](#).

- Individuals interested in serving as guardian ad litem must complete a six hour pre-service training course which meets the minimum requirements set under the education requirement of Superintendence Rule 48. Certain GAL pre-service courses taken before the rule's effective date of March 1, 2009 satisfy this requirement...Individuals interested in serving as guardian ad litem should first contact their local court before registering with the Ohio Guardian ad Litem Education Program Pre-Service course to determine the court's specific qualifications for guardians ad litem to be added to the appointment list. See

<http://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/GAL/preService.asp>.

- Superintendence Rule 48 requires that guardians ad litem complete three hours of continuing GAL education *every calendar year* after completing the initial six hour pre-service course.

<http://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/GAL/continuingGAL.asp>.

- There are different training requirements for guardians ad litem (GALs) depending on whether they serve through local Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) programs or whether they are attorney or paid lay GALs.

#### CASA Volunteers

CASA volunteers are required to attend a minimum of 30 hours of comprehensive pre-service training provided by local CASA/GAL programs using the National CASA Association curriculum or its equivalent. The pre-service course teaches volunteers about issues including, but not limited to, courtroom procedures, child welfare practices, interview techniques and case research strategies. Pre-service training educates volunteers about cultural awareness, child development, the cycle of attachment, resilience, the effects of separation and the need for permanence. Volunteers also learn about issues that often impact the children and families they will work with: mental illness, domestic violence, poverty and substance abuse and addiction.

Volunteers must attend 12 hours of continuing education (in-service training) each year, three hours of which must consist of guardian ad litem continuing education required by Rule 48 of the Rules of Superintendence for the Courts of Ohio (Rule 48). When implementing Rule 48, each court determines how it defines "year." Ohio CASA, meaning the state office and all of its local programs, is authorized by the Supreme Court of Ohio as an approved GAL continuing education provider. In an effort to further support volunteers' need for continuing education, Ohio CASA's annual Celebrate Kids! Conference brings together speakers from many disciplines who present on topics that pertain to CASA/GAL volunteers' work and experiences. Ohio CASA also conducts several regional training sessions throughout the state to provide continuing education training opportunities for as many

	<p>volunteers as possible. Local CASA/GAL programs offer ongoing in-service training specific to the needs of their volunteers and the communities and children they serve.</p> <p>It is important for CASA volunteers to complete in-service training requirements in a timely manner and to make sure they receive documentation of their successful completion of courses. Ohio CASA recommends CASA volunteers come to court proceedings with that documentation and be prepared to affirmatively answer that they are compliant with all training requirements under Rule 48. Parties to cases on which CASA volunteers serve may attempt to discredit a volunteer's recommendation on the basis that the volunteer has not been appropriately trained...See <a href="http://www.ohiocasa.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=page&amp;page_id=5030">http://www.ohiocasa.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=page&amp;page_id=5030</a>.</p>
<p><b>9. Lawyer Compensation:</b> <i>Adequate and timely compensation, reimbursement provided expenses.</i></p>	<p>- <b>(G) Costs.</b> The court may fix compensation for the services of appointed counsel and guardians ad litem, tax the same as part of the costs and assess them against the child, the child's parents, custodian, or other person in loco parentis of such child. <a href="#">OH. CT. R. JUV. PROC. 4.</a></p>
<p><b>10. Caseload Levels:</b> <i>Caseloads are of a manageable size.</i></p>	<p><i>No explicit legal authority or requirement.</i></p>