

PILOT FORM

**GUARDIAN AD LITEM CERTIFICATION
FOR ABUSE AND NEGLECT, FOSTER CARE, AND
CUSTODY AND VISITATION CASES**

Commonwealth of Virginia Va. Code § 16.1-266.1

Case No.

.....
DATE OF HEARING

[] Circuit Court
[] Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court

.....
STREET ADDRESS OF COURT

In re:

I the undersigned Guardian ad litem (GAL) for the above referenced child, certify that I have completed the following actions in compliance with the Standards to Govern the Performance of Guardians ad litem for Children:

- I [] have [] have not met face-to-face with my ward since the last court hearing in this matter in a setting other than the courthouse.
- I [] have [] have not conducted an independent investigation of this matter.

In conducting my independent investigation, I interviewed the parties and any other persons with relevant knowledge of the child and the facts, including:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| [] DSS Case Worker | [] Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), if applicable |
| [] School Personnel | [] Counselor |
| [] Foster parent(s) | [] Household Members |
| [] Other (please specify) _____ | |

AND

I reviewed relevant records, including but not limited to,

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| [] Medical Records | [] Counseling Records |
| [] School Records | [] Foster Care Plan |
| [] CASA Report | [] Other (please specify) |

- I [] have [] have not discussed this proceeding in an age appropriate manner with my ward to ensure s/he understands his/her rights, the nature of the proceeding, my role and responsibilities as guardian ad litem, the court process, the possible consequences of the legal action, the circumstances under which confidentiality may or may not apply, and how to contact me.
- I [] have participated in [] pre-trial Conferences [] mediations [] negotiations [] Family Assessment and Planning Team (FAPT) Meetings [] Family Partnership Team (FPM)/Team Decision Making (TDM) Meetings [] Other (please specify) _____ or [] does not apply.
- I [] have [] have not ensured my ward's attendance at all proceedings, where such attendance would be appropriate and/or mandated, and I [] have [] have not prepared my ward to testify in accord with his/her best interest and welfare.
- I [] have [] have not appeared in court on the dates and times scheduled for hearings prepared to fully and vigorously represent my ward's interests.
- I [] have [] have not provided [] will provide the court sufficient information including specific recommendations for court action based on the findings of the interviews and independent investigation.
I [] have [] have not shared my preliminary recommendations with counsel for the parties and unrepresented parties by [] Phone [] Letter [] In Person [] Written Report. If shared, date provided: _____.

8. I have have not communicated, coordinated and maintained a professional working relationship in so far as possible with all parties without sacrificing independence.

Pursuant to LEO 1870, I have have not requested permission from the appropriate attorney/guardian ad litem to discuss this case with the child's: Mother Father Guardian Other Represented Party

9. I have filed petitions motions pleading briefs and/or issued subpoenas.

10. I have have not made arrangements to advise my ward, in terms s/he can understand of the court's decision and its consequences for him/her and others in his/her life.

Additional Comments.

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Date: _____ Signature of GAL: _____ VSB# _____