

## **Rule 20. Guardian ad litem written report**

**(A)** A guardian ad litem shall prepare a written report and recommendation in permanent custody cases pursuant to R.C. 2151.414(C).

**(B)** A guardian ad litem may be asked on a case-by-case basis to prepare a written report in other matters subject to the Court's discretion.

**(C)** In all cases where a Guardian ad litem Report is prepared, the guardian ad litem is required to comply with the following:

**(1)** All reports shall be filed with the Clerk of Court.

**(2)** All reports shall be titled appropriately

**(3)** All reports are subject to service requirements pursuant to the Ohio Rules of Juvenile Procedure and must include a certificate of service.

**(4)** All reports must be filed at least one (1) week prior to an evidentiary Court hearing, subject to Court modification on a case-by-case basis.

**(D)** The Guardian ad litem Report may be supplemented based upon new information or change of circumstances. All supplements to the Guardian ad litem Reports are subject to the same service obligations referenced above.

**(E)** Each Guardian ad litem Report shall include a summary of the child's case, including placement history; any special needs of the child, (i.e. mental health, disabilities, etc); the child's views (if available); and dispositional options (i.e. relatives, third parties, private placement, etc.)

Each Guardian ad litem Report shall present specific recommendations, including whether permanent custody is or is not recommended; the guardian ad litem's reasons for that position; and all other recommendations, suggestions or concerns that the guardian ad litem can identify as in the child's best interests.

**(F)** Each guardian ad litem shall perform his/her duties in accordance with Local Rule 17(G).

**(G)** All parties, agencies, and other individuals shall make good faith efforts to make the child available to the guardian ad litem, and to provide the guardian ad litem with the names and telephone numbers of any pertinent individuals which the guardian ad litem should contact. Similarly, all parties are obligated to provide the guardian ad litem with any relevant written reports, documents, evaluations or other material which that party wishes the guardian ad litem to consider as part of the guardian ad litem investigation.