

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA  
FAMILY LAW DIVISION  
ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVE ECFLAD 2006-03**

**IN RE: ATTORNEY GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Circuit Court for Escambia County, Florida, has established a Family Law Division consisting of Divisions L, M, and P; and

WHEREAS, there is a need in some Chapter 61 and Chapter 742 cases involving minor children for a Guardian Ad Litem to be appointed to act as next friend of the child, investigator or evaluator, not as an attorney or advocate on behalf of the minor child(ren); and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the minor child(ren) and the parties that a Guardian Ad Litem be appointed in certain cases to assist the Court in making decisions regarding shared parental responsibility, primary residential responsibility, timesharing and other issues involving the welfare of the minor child(ren); and

WHEREAS, there are licensed members of the Florida Bar with the training and qualifications to enable them to serve in a capacity of an Attorney Guardian Ad Litem; and

WHEREAS, the Judges assigned to the Family Law Divisions have approved an Order Appointing Attorney Guardian Ad Litem and the Guidelines for the Attorney Guardian Ad Litem Program, which would guide and rule the Attorney Guardians Ad Litem, the parties and their counsel involved in a family law case during the Attorney Guardian Ad Litem's appointment on the case, it is, therefore,

ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that:

1. The Order Appointing Attorney Guardian Ad Litem attached as Exhibit "A" is hereby adopted for utilization in Chapter 61 and Chapter 742 cases in which an Attorney Guardian Ad Litem is appointed by the Court.
2. An identical order for each division shall be used by the Family Law Judges for Divisions L, M, and P, as circumstances warrant.
3. The judicial assistant for each judge in a Family Law Division is directed to maintain a current list of attorneys who have completed the Attorney Guardian Ad Litem training and who wish to serve as Attorney Guardian Ad Litem to assist *pro se* parties, attorneys and judges in selecting an Attorney Guardian Ad Litem in certain cases.
4. The Guidelines for Attorney Guardian Ad Litem Program are attached as Exhibit "B."

DONE AND ORDERED in chambers at Pensacola, Escambia County, Florida, this 6<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2006.

Signed by: Jan Shackelford, Administrative Judge  
Family Law Division

THIS ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVE IS ACCOMPANIED BY ATTACHMENTS THAT ARE NOT COMPATIBLE WITH SCREEN READERS. IF YOU WISH TO OBTAIN A COPY OF THE ATTACHMENTS TO THIS ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVE, PLEASE CONTACT COURT ADMINISTRATION AT 850-595-4400.