

Guardian Ad Litem

What is a Guardian Ad Litem? What will they do for my family? Why would I need one? How much do they typically cost?

A Guardian ad Litem (GAL) is an individual hired to represent the interests of infants, the unborn, or incompetent persons in legal actions who have been abused, abandoned, or neglected. What your child's GAL from iMediate Inc. will do is he/she will protect the well-being and interests of your minor child. A child is not allowed in court to testify or speak with the judges or attorneys. If your child needs to have a voice, his/her voice shall be heard through their GAL. Your GAL makes independent recommendations to the court by focusing on the needs of each child. Your GAL advocates for your child's best interest – their emotional, physical, educational, environmental and social wellbeing. Your GAL will serve as the eyes, ears and arms of the justice system. They identify the best possible result for each child. Your GAL will assure that your child's best interests are represented in the court at every stage of the case.

Role of the Guardian ad Litem:

- **Investigates:** Carries out an objective, systematic examination of the situation, including relevant history, environment, relationships, and needs of the child. The GAL interviews family, friends, school staff, medical doctors, therapists, and anyone involved in a child's life.

- **Facilitates**: Identifies resources and services for the child and facilitates a collaborative relationship between all parties involved in the case, helping to create a situation in which the child's needs are met.
- **Advocates**: Conveys the best interests of the child to the court.
- **Monitors**: Keeps track of whether the orders of the court are carried out.
- **Reports**: Reports findings and recommendations regarding the best interest of the child to the court.

Cost of the Guardian ad Litem:

Private GALS typically charge anywhere between \$2,500.00-\$10,000.00 for a retainer and charge between \$250.00-\$600.00 per hour. Our GALS have completed the court approved GAL training program and will provide the best service for the most reasonable price. For a \$1,500.00 retainer and \$199.00 per hour, call or email us today to have your child's needs, wants and desires heard in a court of law.