

STATE OF MINNESOTA

IN DISTRICT COURT

COUNTY OF _____

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

**Notice to Parents Regarding Policy on
Reimbursement for Guardian ad Litem Costs
and Dismissal of Guardian ad Litem at Case Conclusion**

Guardian ad Litem Reimbursement

Minnesota law authorizes the Court to require parents to pay for the cost of guardian ad litem services. Parents have the right to seek a reduction in their payment obligation based upon ability to pay.

When a guardian ad litem is ordered, the Court will normally require a payment by each legal parent. This payment is due within 30 days of appointment of a Guardian ad Litem. A legal parent is defined as the biological or adoptive parent of a child who is sufficiently engaged in the court action. A legal parent may not be sufficiently engaged in the action when the parent is non-custodial; and

- 1) does not appear in the court action
- 2) or has not been actively involved with the child within six months before initiation of the court proceedings.

This billing is handled through the County Court Administration. Monthly payments through wage withholding or revenue recapture may be arranged through the County Court Administration for parents who are obligated to pay the guardian ad litem reimbursement.

Not all parents have the ability to pay the reimbursement. A financial inquiry form is available from the Court Administrator and should be completed and submitted to the County Court Administration if a parent wishes to be relieved of some or all of the payment obligation.

If after reviewing a submitted financial inquiry of a parent, the Court Administrator finds a parent has the ability to pay the guardian ad litem reimbursement, that parent has the right to request a hearing before a judge to review the financial responsibility. To arrange such a hearing a written request should be submitted to the Court Administrator's office. A hearing will then be scheduled.

Parents with questions are encouraged to contact Court Administration in the county where their case is filed. They may also contact the 8th Judicial District Guardian ad Litem Program, Kandiyohi County Courthouse, P.O. Box 1017, 505 Becker Avenue SW, Willmar, Minnesota 56201 (telephone: 320-231-6570.)

Dismissal of Guardian ad Litem at Case Conclusion:

Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, a Guardian ad Litem will be dismissed from a case at the conclusion of the proceedings.