

SNOHOMISH COUNTY GUARDIAN AD LITEM REGISTRY CODE OF CONDUCT

1. The Guardian ad Litem shall represent the best interests of the persons for whom he or she is appointed.
2. The Guardian ad Litem shall make a reasonable inquiry as to the facts and issues in dispute and shall decline the appointment if the Guardian ad Litem is not qualified, competent or able to complete the matter in a timely manner. The Guardian ad Litem shall locate professional resources as necessary to assist in the Guardian ad Litem's evaluation and recommendations.
3. The Guardian ad Litem shall maintain the ethical principles of the Guardian ad Litem's own profession.
4. The Guardian ad Litem shall remain qualified for the registry to which the Guardian ad Litem is appointed and shall promptly advise the court of any grounds for disqualification or unavailability to serve.
5. The Guardian ad Litem shall maintain independence and objectivity in the Guardian ad Litem investigation.
6. The Guardian ad Litem shall avoid any actual or apparent conflict of interest or impropriety in the conduct of Guardian ad Litem duties. The Guardian ad Litem shall avoid self-dealing or association from which the Guardian ad Litem might directly or indirectly benefit, other than for compensation as Guardian ad Litem. The Guardian ad Litem shall take action immediately to resolve any potential conflict or impropriety. The Guardian ad Litem shall advise the court and the parties of action taken, or resign from the matter, as may be necessary to resolve the conflict or impropriety.
7. The Guardian ad Litem shall treat the parties with respect, courtesy, fairness and good faith, regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, cultural heritage, gender, age, education, economic status, marital status, sexual orientation or disability.
8. The Guardian ad Litem shall inform the court concerning all relevant information disclosed or made available to the Guardian ad Litem.
9. The Guardian ad Litem shall not guarantee or create the impression that any portion of the investigation will remain confidential.

10. The Guardian ad Litem shall maintain the privacy of the parties, and shall make no disclosures about the case or investigation except in reports to the court or as necessary to perform the duties of the Guardian ad Litem.
11. The Guardian ad Litem shall perform duties in a prompt and timely manner. The Guardian ad Litem shall maintain adequate documentation to substantiate recommendations and conclusions. The Guardian ad Litem shall keep complete and contemporaneous records of actions taken and the time and expense incurred.
12. The Guardian ad Litem shall report to law enforcement and/or Child Protective Services any child abuse or neglect as defined in RCW 26.44 or adult abuse as defined in RCW 74.34 as found by him or her.