

# Court Administrator Guardian ad Litem

The mission of the Guardian ad Litem Program is to advocate for the best interests of children who are alleged to be abused, neglected, or abandoned and who are involved in court proceedings.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

1. The Guardian ad Litem (GAL) Program represented 713 cases: 365 new cases and 348 ongoing cases in 2001.
2. In 2001, GAL represented over 1,200 children alleged to be abused, neglected or abandoned.
3. 170 new volunteers were recruited and trained in 2001 bringing the total number of supervised volunteers to 386.
4. GAL staff participated in and spoke at various public relation activities, including FSU's volunteer fair, in order to educate the public about child abuse and neglect and stimulate interest in volunteering.
5. The addition of 10 volunteers through a new grant from Americorps has meant an increased number of cases.

## ADVISORY BOARD

None

## SUMMARY OF KEY STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES

Florida Statutes, Chapter 39.402(8) (c)(1) "Placement of Child in Shelter" \*Chapter 39.802(2)(a) "Petition for Termination of Parental Rights" \*Chapter 39.822 "Appointment of Guardian Ad Litem" \*Chapter 39.407(5) Dependency Case Referral to Mediation".

## SUMMARY OF KEY SERVICE FUNCTIONS

1. Provide child(ren) with legal representation and advocacy services.
2. Preserve child(ren)'s physical safety and emotional well-being and protect child(ren) from further harm.
3. Make verbal and written recommendations for child(ren)'s permanent placement in a stable and nurturing home environment.
4. Attend trials, hearing, staffings and mediations.

## PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS

	FY 99/00	FY 00/01	FY 01/02	FY 02/03
	Actual	Actual	Estimate	Target
1) # of cases	864	713	890	917
2) # of Leon County cases	605	500	623	642
3) # of children served	1,500	1,238	1,545	1,592
4) # of Leon County children served	1,051	867	1082	1114
5) # of volunteers	395	386	400	531
6) Guardian to Child ratio	1 to 4	1 to 3	1 to 4	1 to 3

**Court Administrator - Guardian Ad Litem**

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 001-547-685

FY 2002/2003 THRU FY 2006/2007 FINANCIAL & STAFFING SUMMARY

	FY 00/01 Actual	FY 01/02 Adopted	FY 02/03 Budget	FY 03/04 Planned	FY 04/05 Planned	FY 05/06 Planned	FY 06/07 Planned
<u>OPERATING</u>							
Personnel	\$87,874	\$93,893	\$97,974	\$100,913	\$103,941	\$107,059	\$110,271
Operating	20,797	29,672	29,672	29,672	29,672	29,672	29,672
Capital Outlay							
Contingency							
TOTAL	\$108,671	\$123,565	\$127,646	\$130,585	\$133,613	\$136,731	\$139,943
<u>STAFFING</u>							
Full Time	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
O.P.S.							

FY 2002/2003 PROGRAM CHANGES & NOTES:

This program is recommended at the No Increase Target (NIT) funding level to include routine salary and wage adjustments.

Budget includes \$7,700 in county funding (53400) used to pay for security of the Family Visitation Program (114-569).

The GAL program also receives funding from the state (\$401,339), a grant (\$87,830), and a match by some circuit counties (\$17,026).

FY 2003/2004 THRU FY 2006/2007 PLANNED INITIATIVES & NOTES:

There are no program changes requested in the outyears with the exception of anticipated routine salary and wage adjustments.

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### PROGRAM EXPENDITURE DETAIL

Object Code	Account Description	FY 00/01	FY 01/02	FY 02/03 Requested			FY 02/03 Budget		
		Actual	Adopted	NIT	Change	Total	NIT	Change	ARB
51200	Salaries & Wages	\$66,088	\$69,446	\$72,797		\$72,797	\$72,797		\$72,797
52100	FICA Taxes	4,991	5,313	5,568		5,568	5,568		5,568
52200	Retirement	5,773	5,069	4,193		4,193	4,193		4,193
52300	L & H Insurance	10,759	13,787	15,135		15,135	15,135		15,135
52400	Workers' Comp	263	278	281		281	281		281
TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICES		\$87,874	\$93,893	\$97,974		\$97,974	\$97,974		\$97,974
53400	Other Contract Svcs.		10,700	10,700		10,700	10,700		10,700
54100	Communication	1,939	1,830	1,830		1,830	1,830		1,830
54200	Postage	5,517	5,575	5,575		5,575	5,575		5,575
54400	Rentals & Leases	4,728	5,226	5,226		5,226	5,226		5,226
55100	Office Supplies	4,490	3,654	3,654		3,654	3,654		3,654
55200	Operating Supplies	4,123	2,687	2,687		2,687	2,687		2,687
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES		\$20,797	\$29,672	\$29,672		\$29,672	\$29,672		\$29,672
PROGRAM TOTAL		\$108,671	\$123,565	\$127,646		\$127,646	\$127,646		\$127,646

### PROGRAM STAFFING DETAIL

Program Attorney (part-time)	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
Case Coordinator (part-time)	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
Administrative Assistant	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Secretary Specialist	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Total	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00