

Judicial

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Guardian Ad Litem

Organizational Code: 001-547-685

Mission Statement

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.

Advisory Board

None

Summary of Services Provided

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

Accomplishments

1. The Guardian ad Litem Program represented 570 cases, 281 were newly appointed and 289 were carried over from the preceding year.
2. In Fiscal Year 2004 Guardian ad Litem represented over 1,186 children alleged to be abused, neglected or abandoned.
3. Of the 570 cases represented, approximated 190, involving 395 children, were from Leon County.
4. Guardian ad Litem developed a website (www.guardianadlitembigend.org) and thus, enhanced its ability to communicate with its volunteers and inform interested citizens about the Program's mission and services.
5. Guardian ad Litem hosted its annual Volunteer Reception in April, 2004, and recognized over 75 volunteers for their outstanding contributions to the Program and community.

Current Year Notes

This program is recommended at an increased funding level. These recommendations include:

1. Increased funding for technology and training. Total fiscal impact is \$5.320.

Out-Year Notes

There are no Budget Issues requested in FY2007 thru 2010.

Objectives / Performance Measures	Indicator	Units	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Budget	FY 2006 Budget
001-547-685 Guardian Ad Litem					
• Number of Leon County cases	Input	#	190	257	334
• Number of Leon County children served	Input	#	395	464	603
• Number of volunteers	Input	#	257	251	270

**Leon County Government
Fiscal Year 2006 Budget**

Guardian Ad Litem

Organizational Code: 001-547-685

Budgetary Costs	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Adopted	FY 2006 Continuation	FY 2006 Issues	FY 2006 Budget	FY 2007 Budget
Personal Services	27,201	0	0	0	0	0
Operating	26,930	20,155	16,195	5,320	21,515	21,515
Total Budgetary Costs	<u>54,131</u>	<u>20,155</u>	<u>16,195</u>	<u>5,320</u>	<u>21,515</u>	<u>21,515</u>

Funding Sources	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Adopted	FY 2006 Budget	FY 2007 Budget
001 General Fund	54,131	20,155	21,515	21,515
Total Revenues	<u>54,131</u>	<u>20,155</u>	<u>21,515</u>	<u>21,515</u>

