

APPLICATION FOR GUARDIAN AD LITEM REGISTRY

Family Law – Title 26

Mail or deliver the completed application, with all attachments, to:

Kitsap County Superior Court Administrator
614 Division Street, MS-24
Port Orchard, WA 98366

Name: Karen L. Hallis, JD, CPC
Business Name or Firm: Law Office of Karen L. Hallis
Business Address: P.O. Box 1804
City and State: Port Blakely Washington Zip Code: 98370
Business Phone: 360 779-0000 Fax: ()
Email Address: Karen@karenhallis.com

- Non-Attorney Attorney WSBA or Washington State Certification No 26160
- I am willing to serve as a Guardian ad Litem at public expense.
- I have no pending investigation or action against me involving felony allegations, professional certification or license suspension and/or revocation.
- I agree to advise the court immediately in the event of any complaint, investigation or action being commenced which could lead to professional discipline, or the suspension or revocation of my professional license, or to the filing of criminal charges for felony or crime involving allegations of theft, dishonesty or moral turpitude.
- I have read and agree to be bound by the Kitsap County Superior Court Guardian ad Litem Registry Code of Conduct.

Summary of my experiences as a GAL including years of experience and number of appointments. I was a Court Appointed Special Advocate in Arizona (1994-1995). I was on the King County Title 26 GAL registry (1998-1999). I have been on the Kitsap County Title 26 GAL registry since 2003 and the Jefferson County Title 26 GAL registry since 2005. I have worked approximately 38 cases as a court-appointed GAL, a private GAL and as custody investigator for other states.

Number of times serving as a Guardian ad Litem that I have been removed for failure to perform my duties as a Guardian ad Litem: NONE

I include the following with my application (please check all applicable boxes):

- Curriculum vitae, showing work and professional or personal experience in or related to the field that would assist in the performance and completion of Guardian ad Litem duties;
- Copies of any professional complaints, investigations or disciplinary actions, lawsuits or professional liability claims filed, whether pending or completed, including a statement for each setting out the current status and any applicable response to said claims;
- Copies of any order for removal of the Guardian ad Litem prior to completion of the Guardian ad Litem's duties; *NONE*
- Copy of fee schedule;
- Washington State Patrol Conviction Criminal History Report;
- Signed release of information directed to all professional regulatory bodies which have licensed or supervised the applicant within the last ten years;

AND, EITHER

- Certificate of Qualification/Training for Guardian ad Litem seeking appointment under RCW Title 26

OR

- I am currently on the Guardian ad Litem Registry and have included a certificate of updated training taken within the last two years

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the foregoing is true and correct.

DATED: 8 May 2009

Poulsbo
City Where Signed

K L
Signature of Applicant
Karen L. Hallis
Printed Name

KAREN LEE HALLIS, JD, CPC
360.779.0000 karen@karenhallis.com

P.O. Box 1804
Poulsbo, Washington 98370

Professional Experience

Washington (1996-Present)

Attorney Law Offices of Karen L. Hallis 1996, 1998 - Present
Worked as a state contractor to assist people with disabilities. Worked with clients to set up and operate businesses, seek and maintain employment, set goals and achieve greater success. Completed seminars on disability, the ADA and the interface of parenting while living with disabilities.

Advise business clients in all aspects of business development (start-up, expansion, conflict resolution, contracts, employee relations, winding down, risk and ethics). Mentor new attorneys regarding professionalism and business matters.

Alternative dispute resolution services: mediate and negotiate resolution of conflict. Consult with clients regarding conflict resolution; prepare clients for trial. Title 26 Guardian Ad Litem. Investigate high conflict families regarding custody and testify at trials. Provide consulting services for GALs and attorneys regarding cases with GALs. Expert witness regarding habitability and safety issues in homes.

Trainer for mediators, social services and mental health professionals. Design curriculum and write training materials. Public speaking topics include business development, leadership, child welfare, legal process, ethics, conflict resolution and risk management.

Have taught risk and ethics at the University of Washington. Teach graduate and undergraduate law, human resources and criminal justice courses at Chapman University (Washington campuses).

Teen Mentor King and Kitsap Counties 1997 - Present
Teen mentor since 1987. Speak in high schools about critical thinking, logical reasoning, law, conflict resolution and leadership.

Committee Member Public Legal Education Workgroup 1999
Member of a Governor's work group that evaluated the effectiveness of legal education in the public school system. Successfully lobbied to keep social studies in the public school curriculum. Researched and wrote a white paper on legal education in public schools/universities and presented it to the Access to Justice conference. Obtained funding and created the Council on Public Legal Education (within the WSBA).

Paralegal/Trainer DSHS-Division of Children and Family Services 1997-1998
Provided legal services to social workers. Prepared discovery for litigation. Delivered training seminars to CPS and CWS social workers. Topics included: pre-court preparation, courtroom presentation and legal process. I did legal research as directed (issues in child welfare, family dynamics and the roles of Guardians Ad Litem and Court Appointed Special Advocates in CPS/CWS cases). Created and managed the student intern program and recruited, interviewed, trained and supervised my interns.

Program Analyst Treehouse Inc. 1996-1999
Analyzed the effectiveness of Treehouse's programs. Made recommendations to the board regarding program changes and expansion.

Arizona (1992-1996)

Attorney Sojourner Shelter 1995-1996
Attorney at a shelter for women and children. Co-facilitated support groups (cycles of violence in families, dynamics of an abusive relationship, legalities of prosecuting a perpetrator and the predominance of eating disorders in domestic violence) and also provided legal advice to clients on a variety of matters (family law, domestic violence, employment law and landlord-tenant matters). Spoke with teenage clients about drug use, at-risk status, school attendance and child abuse issues.

Attorney Law Offices of Karen L. Hallis 1995-1996
Direct representation and contract work in family law, domestic violence and criminal defense. Prepared pleadings, counseled clients, participated in negotiations and settlement conference and made court appearances. Worked for a death-qualified attorney and researched/drafted briefs for death sentencing hearings.

Teen Mentor Phoenix Area 1994-1996
Weekly speaker in Phoenix high schools: the Constitution, child welfare, leadership and college preparation. Worked individually with teens (at-risk status, gang activity, goal setting, conflict resolution and leadership).

Court Appointed Special Advocate Phoenix Area 1995-1996
Investigated parenting in child abuse cases.

Substitute Teacher Balsz School District 1993-1994
Worked in several inner city Phoenix schools, primarily in seventh and eighth grades. Discussed law, legal rights and the Constitution and compared the US government to governments experienced by my immigrant students. Students participated openly in debates about gang activity and gun control.

Judicial Law Clerk Arizona Court of Appeals 1992-1993
Researched and wrote opinions. Presented my findings to panels of appellate judges and made recommendations to the judges prior to oral arguments.

Education

Juris Doctor, Santa Clara University School of Law, Santa Clara, California, 1992.
Research assistant for Professor June Carbone and researched/edited her law review articles on marital dissolution. Researched and wrote an independent research paper on the constitutional ramifications of a superior court judge's ruling giving a repeat sex abuse (female) perpetrator a choice of either taking Norplant or serving a jail sentence.

International Law/International Business, Singapore and Thailand, 1990.
Studied international law and international business transactions at National University Singapore School of Law and Chulalongkorn University School of Law in Bangkok, Thailand. Worked at Tilleke & Gibbins in Bangkok. Researched and wrote legal documents in criminal law, land development and international business transactions. Assisted a multi-national negotiation regarding development of a multi-million dollar land development project. Advised non-Thai criminal defendants of their criminal rights.

Bachelor of Science, University of California Davis, Davis, California, Biology/Communications, 1986.
Individual major combined science with communications, organizational development and writing.

Training and Certification

Collaborative Law Training, 2007

12-hour training.

Dispute Resolution Center of Kitsap County, 2004

40-hour mediation training. Trained in Arizona (1995).

Title 26 Registry Family Law Guardian Ad Litem Certification, 2003.

Took the training in 1999 as well.

Certified Professional Coach, 2002.

Program focussed on communication, decision science and leadership.

Court Appointed Special Advocate Certification, 1994.

Bar Status

Member in good standing of the Arizona and Washington States Bar Associations.

Publications

Professionalism and Ethical Issues for GALs, (2008) King County Bar Association GAL Training Manual.

Professors June Carbone and Margaret Brinig, *Rethinking Marriage: feminist ideology, economic change and divorce reform*, 65 Tulane L. Rev. 5, 954 (1991). Legal research, writing and editing.

Santa Clara International & Environmental Law Bulletin (1990 – 1992). Co-founder and co-editor in chief.

Schwartz, S. and Pratt, W. (1990), *Hazardous Waste from Small Quantity Generators*. Washington D.C.: Island Press. Research, writing, editing.

Sherry, S. (1985), *High Tech and Toxics*, Sacramento: Golden Empire Health Planning Center. Research, writing and editing.

Past and Present Activities and Affiliations

Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, Kitsap County Bar Association, King County Bar Association, Washington Women Lawyers King and Kitsap (past president) counties, National Association of Counsel for Children, Maricopa County Bar Association, Maricopa County Bar Domestic Violence Subcommittee, Arizona Women Lawyers.

Karen L. Hallis, JD, CPC Attorney at Law Title 26 GAL Training Overview

I, Karen L. Hallis, state that I have participated in the following training seminars.

ARIZONA

CASA training Arizona Supreme Court 1994 (28 hrs)

Domestic violence training **Sojourner Shelter** 1995-6 (15 hrs)

Topics included: the dynamics of relationships involving dv, the psychology of victims and perpetrators, evaluating relationships for signs of dv, mental health issues in dv relationships.

State Bar of Arizona

The best interests of children in family law cases 1996 (7 hrs)

Recognizing domestic violence issues 1996 (7 hrs)

WASHINGTON

DSHS-DCFS Mandatory Training 1997-8 (60 hrs)

How a case proceeds through CPS and CWS

CPS intake procedure

Foster home licensing

The role of a foster parent

Recognizing physical and sexual abuse

How to conduct home visits

Indian Child Welfare Act

Cultural sensitivity

Infectious disease notation in files

Confidentiality in CPS/CWS case files

The discovery process in CPS/CWS litigation

Adoption of children in the DCFS system

Continuing Legal Education seminars

WSBA

Community property law and developments 1997 (7 hrs)

Alternative dispute resolution 1997 (7 hrs)

Family law section annual meeting & seminar 1999 (14 hrs)

Family law skills institute 1999 (10 hrs)

Contract law essentials 1999 (7 hrs)

Inter-County GAL workshop forum 1999 (7 hrs)

Courtroom presentation 2002 (7 hrs)

Negotiation strategies for lawyers 2003 (7 hrs)

Washington Law School Foundation

Drafting marital settlements 1999 (7 hrs)

Grandparents and other relatives raising children 2001 (7 hrs)

Using child development to develop parenting plans 2005 (4 hrs)

Karen L. Hallis Training Overview

DSHS - Children's Administration

Children's Justice Conference 1998 (14 hrs)

King County Superior Court

Hot topics in family courts 1998 (7 hrs)

Listened to the GAL training audiotapes 1999 (20 hrs)

Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs

Sexual assault civil legal training 2003 (14 hrs)

King County Bar Association

Family law institute 2001 (7 hrs)

Title 26 Registry GAL training 2003 (29 hrs)

Using psycho-social theories-Custody Evaluations 2004 (7 hrs)

When relationships change 2004 (7 hrs)

(Presenter) Advanced Title 26 GAL issues 2006

Kitsap County Superior Court

Title 26 GAL update training 2003 (7 hrs)

Pension division & non-parental custody 2003 (4 hrs)

Title 26 GAL update training 2004 (7 hrs)

Title 26 GAL update training (Presenter) 2006 (7 hrs)

Title 26 GAL update training 2008 (7 Hrs)

Title 26 GAL update training 2009 (7 hrs)

Commissioner Lowans, presenter 2007 (1 hr)

Mediation training

Dispute Resolution Center of Kitsap County 2004 (40 hrs)

Open minds-creative conflict solutions 2004 (10 hrs)

Association of Family and Conciliation Courts

Using child development to develop parenting plans 2005 (8 hrs)

Collaborative Law Training 2007 (12 hours)

Kitsap County Title 26 GAL Appointments:

Advancement of Fees:	\$ 2000
Hourly Rate:	\$ 125/hour
Costs:	Reimbursed by parties for all costs
Mileage:	Per IRS guidelines

Adoptions:

Call first to discuss facts, needs, timelines and fees.

Appointments/GAL work from other states:

Call to discuss facts, needs, timelines and fees.

Private GAL cases:

Call first to discuss facts, needs, timelines and fees (vary depending on what is needed).

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION



THIS CERTIFIES THAT

Karen Wallis

ATTENDED THE

GUARDIAN AD LITEM
UPDATE TRAINING, RCW TITLE 26

ON APRIL 22, 2009



*Certified by the Superior Court of Kitsap County as the statutorily required
RCW 26.09.220 and 26.12.175 GAL Registry Update Training*

WSBA CLE Credits: 6.5 Total Credits (Pending)
(5.5 General and 1.0 Ethics)

Russell W. Hartman
JUDGE RUSSELL W. HARTMAN, PRESIDING JUDGE



Certificate of Completion

King County Bar Association

KAREN HALLIS

**2003 Title 26 Registry Family Law
Guardian ad Litem Training
January 31 & February 1, 2003 and
February 28 & March 1, 2003**

**Certified by the Superior Court of King County as the
Statutorily Required RCW 2.56.039(15)
Family Law Guardian ad Litem Registry Training**

28.25 General and 1.00 Ethics for a Total of 29.25 CLE Credits



Roxanne Mennes, KCBA CLE Director

Karen L. Hallis, JD, CPC Attorney at Law Title 26 GAL Application

Complaints

Two fathers on two separate cases filed complaints regarding my actions while acting as GAL on their cases. I refer to them in generic terms, as "Dad #1" and "Dad #2."

Dad #1

I was appointed as GAL in late 2005. The case was complicated. I filed my GAL report in early 2006. Dad #1 filed a complaint with the Superior Court and a motion to have me dismissed and get his money back. Dad #1 attempted to have a hearing set. I set a hearing. The judge determined that the matter should be set for trial. At the conclusion of trial in June 2006, the judge determined that I had not violated the GAL Code of Conduct and was not in conflict in terms of my role with the parties.

Dad #1 then filed a complaint with the Washing State Bar Association in June 2006. The WSBA dismissed the complaint without seeking comment from me.

Dad #1 filed an appeal of this dismissal, and the WSBA requested a response from me. I sent in my response. The appeal was dismissed for 'no or insufficient evidence of unethical behavior' in October 2006.

Dad #2

I was appointed in mid-2005. This case was complicated. Dad #2 filed a bar complaint with the WSBA in September 2006. The WSBA requested a response from me, and I provided one. This bar complaint was dismissed and I received notification in November 2006.

