

3. EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS

3.1 **Attorneys** must be a member of the Washington State Bar Association in good standing, and provide proof of successful completion of guardian ad litem training as required by Title 11 and/or 26.

3.2 **Non-Attorneys**

(a) **Family Law Registry (Title 26)**

- (1) Bachelor level degree in any of the following fields: social work, psychology, counseling, nursing, medicine or equivalent field; **or**
- (2) Certified by the State of Washington as a social worker, mental health therapist or marriage and family counselor, or licensed as a psychologist, nurse or physician, in good standing; **or**
- (3) Proof of successful completion of guardian ad litem training as required by Title 26 and proof of four completed guardian ad litem assignments for any Washington State superior court within the past five years

and

Proof of successful completion of guardian ad litem training as required by Title 26 and proof of successful completion of two supervised guardian ad litem assignments as follows:

- (i) One guardian ad litem assignment done in conjunction with a mentor guardian ad litem which shall include accompanying the mentor on all visits, attendance at all interviews, participation in preparation of a report, and attendance at all court hearings. The mentor is the guardian ad litem of record and this assignment is without compensation to the applicant.
- (ii) One guardian ad litem assignment done under the supervision of the same mentor guardian ad litem which shall include more active participation on the part of the applicant, i.e., requesting documents, conducting interviews, preparing reports under the supervision of the mentor. The mentor is the guardian ad litem of record and this assignment is without compensation to the applicant.

[amended November 1, 2008]

(b) **Guardianship, Probate and Minor Settlement Registry (Title 11)**

- (1) Two (2) years of experience in the needs of impaired elderly people, physical disabilities, mental illness, developmental disabilities/ and/or other areas relevant to the needs of incapacitated persons, and
- (2) Successful completion of mandatory Title 11 training.

TITLE 11

All new GALs required to take 2 day training program
All others required to take 2nd day of training (advanced class)
Attorneys receive CLE credits
Background check annually

TITLE 26

All new GALs required to take 4 day training
AOC encourages local court to require a specific number of clock hours for refresher training
Background check annually