



Guardian ad Litem

# Charting a Positive Path For a Child's Future

**Sen. Aaron Bean (SB 124) & Rep. Tyler Sirois (HB 115)**

**Some abused and neglected children are involved in multiple court proceedings.** They might have both a dependency and delinquency case. Others may need a probate court to appoint a guardian if they have some kind of incapacity when they turn 18. Often, these proceedings can be in different counties or circuits.

**Judges making decisions about these children should know them and have the best information.** Therefore, the Guardian ad Litem Program proposes changes in the law:

- Allowing a guardianship petition to be filed either where the child resides or in county with the dependency case. This will make it easier to appoint a guardian if necessary.
- Requiring the Department of Juvenile Justice to notify the court and parties in the child's dependency case of certain events, so everyone serving the child and the child's family has relevant, up to date information.
- Authorizing a child's Guardian ad Litem or Attorney ad Litem in the dependency case to provide information that might be relevant to a child's delinquency case.

**Dependent kids need all of our help to successfully transition from the dependency and delinquency systems and chart a positive path for the future.**



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