

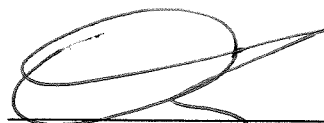
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
TWENTY-FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

IN RE: COURT CERTIFIED CHILD REPRESENTATIVES,)	GENERAL
ATTORNEYS FOR A CHILD, AND GUARDIANS)	ADMINISTRATIVE
AD LITEM IN THE 24th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT)	ORDER. 23-13

- A. Pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 906, the following qualifications and educational requirements shall be met for child representatives, attorneys for a child, and guardians *ad litem* appointed by the court in child custody and allocation of parental responsibilities cases and guardianship cases when custody or visitation is an issue in the 24th Judicial Circuit:
1. The attorney must be licensed and in good standing with the Illinois Supreme Court;
 2. The attorney shall have a minimum of 10 hours in the two years prior to the date the attorney qualifies for appointment in approved continuing legal education courses in the following areas: child development; roles of guardian ad litem and child representative; ethics in child custody and allocation of parental responsibilities cases; relevant substantive state, federal, and case law in custody, allocation of parental responsibilities, visitation, and parenting time matters; implicit bias; family dynamics, including substance abuse, domestic abuse, and mental health issues;
 3. The attorney shall attend periodic continuing education courses consisting of at least five hours every two-year period and submit verification of attendance to the Office of the Chief Judge at the time of attendance or upon request. Said courses shall be approved child related courses in areas set forth in A.2. above;
 4. The attorney must adhere to the minimum duties and responsibilities of attorneys for minor children as delineated in Supreme Court Rule 907; and
 5. The attorney shall submit a request to be certified by the Chief Judge as a child representative, an attorney for a child, or guardian *ad litem* in the 24th Judicial Circuit and have said request approved.
 6. The attorney must maintain malpractice insurance with coverage for child representative/GAL type services and provide proof thereof to the Chief Judge annually;
- B. The Chief Judge, or his designee, shall maintain a list of all certified child representatives, attorneys for a child, and guardians *ad litem*. All appointments of said attorneys by judges of the 24th Judicial Circuit shall be made from said list.

- C. Each certified attorney placed on the approved list and appointed shall be paid by the parties to the litigation as ordered by the judge assigned to the case. Any court order for payment of fees may be enforced as in other proceedings, and failure to comply with payment orders could result in contempt proceedings.
- D. In the event the court deems it is in the best interests of a child to have an attorney appointed in a proceeding as a child representative, an attorney for a child, or guardian *ad litem*, but finds that the parties are both indigent, the court may appoint an attorney from the approved list to serve pro bono.
- E. The Chief Judge, or his designee, shall rotate the appointment of pro bono representations, and each attorney shall be required to accept a maximum of one pro bono appointment per 12-month period.
- F. The Chief Judge shall have the authority to remove any attorney from the list of approved attorneys based upon the failure to meet the listed qualifications, or for good cause, including the failure of any appointed attorney to perform as provided in Supreme Court Rule 907.
- G. The above qualifications and plan for the appointment of child representatives, attorneys for a child, and guardians *ad litem* in the 24th Judicial Circuit have been submitted to the Conference of Chief Judges for approval. Approval was granted via polling of the Chief Circuit Judges in the State of Illinois, with a majority of the Chief Judges voting, via email, to approve said qualifications and plan on April 4, 2023.

Dated this 14th day of April, 2023.



Daniel J. Emge,
Chief Circuit Judge