



LAW OFFICE OF
**KAYLA E.
HARRINGTON**
P.L.L.C.

AMICUS ATTORNEY FOR ADOPTIONS

As the Amicus Attorney, I act as the “friend of the Court” by investigating the best interest of the child and assisting the Court in determining the best interest of the child.

A large portion of my role as Amicus for adoption cases involves visiting the residence and interviewing all of the household members. Additionally, if there are any concerns or issues discussed in the Adoption Study, I do my best to investigate and clarify those issues.

What will the Amicus ask about?

Most simply put, how did we get here and what does the child’s life look like with the prospective adoptive family. I will need a family history, to know about the child’s hobbies, schooling, social life, and support system.

What does the Amicus need to see?

The entirety of the home, including but not limited to the inside of the refrigerator or pantry, bedrooms, bathrooms, especially the primary bedroom and bathroom for the child.

Does the Amicus represent the child?

No. A common misconception is that the Amicus represents the child as their attorney, the Amicus attorney does not legally represent the child. The Amicus does express and convey the child’s desires or concerns to the Court.

AT A GLANCE COST

- \$1500 Flat fee for Amicus service

Travel fees for homes 50 miles or more driving distance from the office:

- 50-99 miles, \$500
- 100-199 miles, \$1000
- 200-399 miles, \$1500
- 400-600 miles, \$2000 plus hotel expenses



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WHAT TO EXPECT

An Overview of the role of the Amicus Attorney



1

Initial contact: the Amicus will contact your lawyer for copies of the court documents, discuss arranging a visit to the home, and payment of the flat fee

2

Scheduling: A visit to your home will be scheduled. The Amicus will speak with all members of the household including the child during the visits

3

Investigation: the Amicus will review, corroborate, and follow up on any issues that arise from the adoption study if one is completed

4

The Visit: the Amicus will visit your home, interview all household members, tour the home, and speak with the child privately

5

Final Review: once the Amicus has completed their investigation and the Petitioner's attorney is ready to proceed, the Amicus will review the final documents and both attorneys will schedule the final court date

6

Hearing: the Amicus attends the final hearing and questions the parties and witnesses to assist the Court in determining best interest. If the Amicus is in agreement, they may sign off on the Final Orders