



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

AMICUS ATTORNEY FOR CONTESTED CASES

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 contested custody cases involves visiting the residence and interviewing all of the household members and reviewing records. Additionally, if there are any concerns or issues discussed during intake, I do my best to investigate 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 in each of their homes. 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 in addition to expressing the Amicus attorney's concerns.

AT A GLANCE COST

- \$5,000 Flat Fee per party for Amicus service

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

- 50-99 miles, \$1000
- 100-199 miles, \$1500
- 200-399 miles, \$2000
- 400-600 miles, \$3000 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, any custody evaluations, records, etc., discuss arranging initial visits with the parties, and payment of the flat fee

2

Individual Intake: An individual visit with the Amicus will be scheduled to discuss your concerns. The Amicus will request any corresponding records or releases to follow up on expressed concerns.

3

Investigation: the Amicus will visit the child in each party's home interview all household members, tour the home, and speak with the child privately

4

Surprise!: the Amicus will make unannounced visits to your home to see the home in its day-to-day state and to interview the child. The Amicus may also visit the child from time to time at school.

5

Interim: the Amicus will appear at any temporary orders or other interim hearings, and may file her own motions on matters concerning the best interest of the child.

6

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