Private Guardian ad Litem Investigations
for Family Law Court Cases

Benefits of Private Guardian ad Litem Services for Parents and Counsel:

- Appointed by the Judge, a Guardian ad Litem investigates the disagreements in a parenting case and makes recommendations for the judge to consider when deciding the outcome.
- Gather evidence by visiting homes and sites associated with the child, locating documents, witnesses and additional evidence for use in trial, mediation, conferences or hearings.
- Applies each of the F.S. 61.13 factors in a written report, providing a framework for a proposed final judgment and arguments to the court.
- Provides an option for neutral, expert testimony at trial, mediation, conferences or hearings
- Generates tangible and tailored solutions for each individual family in a written report
- Advocates for the best interests of the child.
- Through the process, Guardian ad Litem investigations and recommendations often result in the conclusion of litigation without the necessity and expense of trial

Procedure for Private Guardian ad Litem Appointment:

- Counsel or parties discuss appointment with each other and the Guardian ad Litem. A motion or agreed upon order is submitted. A standard proposed, agreed upon order is available for review and use.
- The Guardian ad Litem formally accepts the case and financial arrangements are made within ten days.
- The Guardian ad Litem contacts parents and their attorneys, seeking information and witnesses each feels are important to determine the best outcome for the child. A separate, initial meeting with each parent is scheduled. Meeting the child, home visits and school visits, if appropriate, typically follow.
- Records, documents, additional site visits and interviews are undertaken to collect additional useful information.
- A final report is generated, which includes a proposed Parenting Plan and Parenting Schedule, case specific recommendations, as well as statutory application useful for trial and any proposed final judgment.