

NWF Health Network Policy & Procedure

Series:	600: Legal Issues	
Policy Name:	Guardian Ad Litem	
Policy Number:	605	
Origination Date:	03/09/2009	Revised: Board Meeting of 02/27/2025
Regulation:	39.821, F.S. CFOP 60-52	

Policy

It is the policy of NWF Health Network (NWFHN) and its Case Management Organizations (CMOs), to work in partnership with the Guardians Ad Litem (GAL) to maintain effective and efficient communication with the court system.

Procedure

A. General Information.

1. NWFHN and the CMOs recognize the importance of the GAL in the effective and efficient operation of court proceedings and the welfare of children in care.
2. All parties will maintain effective communication with the GAL Office.
3. The DCM will be responsible for providing GAL's information to all necessary NWFHN MDT Specialists and/or Operations Staff for all staffings and/or meetings, as relevant.

B. Procedures Relating to Employees.

1. Staff employed by NWFHN or its CMOs have a potential conflict of interest if they volunteer for the GAL program. NWFHN employees and its CMO employees will not serve as GALs for any client within the sixteen-county area served by NWFHN.
2. If an employee requests to be a GAL outside of the NWFHN Region the following procedures will be followed:
 - a. The employee will first notify his/her supervisor in writing.
 - b. The supervisor will review the written request and investigate to ensure there is not a conflict of interest.
 - c. The supervisor will forward the written request and any documentation to the NWFHN Human Resource (HR) Specialist.
 - d. The HR Specialist will review the written request, any documents, and discuss options with NWFHN's Chief Executive Officer (CEO).
 - e. Ultimately, the NWFHN CEO will make the final decision regarding any NWFHN employee serving as a GAL.