

GUARDIAN AD LITEM COMPLAINT FORM

BOARD OF OVERSEERS OF THE BAR

Established by the Maine Supreme Judicial Court

97 Winthrop Street • P O Box 527

Augusta, ME 04332-0527

Phone 207-623-1121 • Fax 207-623-4175

E-mail: intake@mebaroverseers.org • Web: www.mebaroverseers.org

Information and Instructions – Please Read Carefully

The Guardian ad Litem Review Board investigates allegations of ethical misconduct against guardians ad litem rostered in the State of Maine. If you believe that a guardian has violated the guardian ad litem rules of conduct or a court order related to the appointment, please fill out this form as completely as possible and return it to the Board's office. If possible, please include a copy of the court's order appointing the guardian ad litem, the court's final judgment in the case, the guardian ad litem's final report, and any other court orders or documents relevant to your complaint. Your complaint will be reviewed in accordance with the Maine Rules for Guardians ad Litem adopted by the Maine Supreme Judicial Court effective September 1, 2015. Please be aware that a copy of this complaint and any attachments will be provided to the guardian ad litem.

If you require assistance completing this form, please contact the Board's Central Intake Office at (207) 623-1121. Normal business hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. You may also submit any questions about completing this form via email.

Upon receipt of your complaint, Board Counsel will review your complaint to determine whether the facts stated provide grounds for further action by the Board. The process for reviewing and processing GAL complaints is outlined in Rule 9 of the Maine Rules for Guardians ad Litem.

REQUIRED INFORMATION:

1. Is the court case the GAL served on finished, with a final order from the court?
☐ Yes ☐ No
2. If no, has the court issued an order discharging the GAL or stating that the GAL Review Board can review this Complaint?
☐ Yes ☐ No

IF NO, THE GAL REVIEW BOARD CANNOT ACT ON THIS COMPLAINT UNTIL THE COURT ISSUES A FINAL JUDGMENT IN THE CASE, THE COURT ENTERS AN ORDER ALLOWING THE BOARD TO PROCEED, OR THE GUARDIAN AD LITEM IS REMOVED OR DISCHARGED

3. Are you a party (Plaintiff, Defendant, Petitioner, Respondent, Intervenor, etc.) or a judicial officer in the court case on which the GAL served?
☐ Yes ☐ No

IF NO, THE REVIEW BOARD CANNOT ACT ON THIS COMPLAINT. A COMPLAINT MAY BE FILED BY A PARTY, A JUDICIAL OFFICER, OR BOARD COUNSEL.

4. Have you filed a complaint with the Judicial Officer who is conducting the hearings in this matter?
☐ Yes ☐ No

Information about you:

Your Name:	<hr/>		
	<i>First</i>	<i>Middle Initial</i>	<i>Last</i>
Your Address:	<hr/>		
	<i>Street</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Home	()
		<input type="checkbox"/> Work	()
	<i>Mailing Address</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Cell	()
	<hr/>	<hr/>	
	<i>City</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Zip</i>
	<hr/>		<i>Date of Birth</i>
	<i>E-mail Address</i>		<i>Last 4 Digits of SSN (optional)</i>
	<hr/>		
	Gender: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Other		
	May we communicate with you by email? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		

Guardian ad Litem Information:

Guardian Name:	<hr/>		
	<i>First</i>	<i>Middle Initial</i>	<i>Last</i>
Guardian Address:	<hr/>		
	<i>Street</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Home	()
		<input type="checkbox"/> Work	()
	<i>Mailing Address</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Cell	()
	<hr/>	<hr/>	
	<i>City</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Zip</i>
	<hr/>		
	<i>E-mail Address</i>		
	<hr/>		

A. The court case:

1. Name and location of the court: _____
2. Docket number: _____
3. Type of case: (e.g. child protection, parental rights and responsibilities, divorce, grandparent visitation rights, guardianship, etc): _____
4. The name of your attorney, if you have one: _____
5. Names of the child(ren) the guardian ad litem was appointed to represent: _____

6. What (if any) is your relationship to the child(ren) the guardian ad litem was appointed to represent?

7. Does this complaint involve a dispute about the guardian ad litem's fees? ☐ Yes ☐ No

B. Your complaint against the guardian ad litem:

1. What is the nature of this complaint against the guardian ad litem? (Check more than one as appropriate)

- ☐ Did not meet with child(ren) in a timely manner consistent with the appointment order
- ☐ Did not meet with and observe child(ren)'s interaction with caregivers at home and/or placement, if ordered by the court
- ☐ Did not appear at court proceedings as ordered by judge or magistrate
- ☐ Failed to sufficiently protect child(ren) from testifying or make other arrangements to ensure the safety of child(ren)
- ☐ Did not exercise independent representation on behalf of child(ren)
- ☐ Did not file timely guardian ad litem reports as required by law or court order.
- ☐ Disclosed confidential information
- ☐ Showed bias or prejudice based upon race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status
- ☐ Dispute regarding fees for services or billing practices
- ☐ Other (please be as specific as possible)

2. Have you spoken to the guardian ad litem about your complaint? ☐ Yes ☐ No
3. Describe in detail the nature of your complaint against this guardian ad litem. Please include the times and dates of events where appropriate (add additional pages if necessary).

4. Do you have copies of the court orders, reports and other documents you or others have filed with the court that are important to your complaint? ☐ Yes ☐ No

i. What are the documents?

ii. Can you send them to us?

C. Other complaints about this guardian:

1. Are you aware of any other complaints about this guardian ad litem? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please explain:

2. Have you filed a complaint or action against this guardian ad litem elsewhere? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, explain where that complaint was filed, and the complaint's status:

Do you understand that the filing of this complaint constitutes your consent to the disclosure of the content of your complaint and relevant information to the named guardian ad litem; the Guardian ad Litem Review Board; Board Counsel; the Board of Overseers of the Bar; the Maine Judicial Branch including the court; any regulatory or administrative agency that has or could issue a license to the guardian ad litem you have named; and any of the employees, agents and attorneys for these entities and agencies?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you understand your complaint may become public?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you realize this complaint form may be declared a public record?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Date

(Signature)

Mail or email complaint form with attachments, to:

Board of Overseers of the Bar
P.O. Box 527
Augusta, ME 04332-0527

E-mail: intake@mebaroverseers.org