

1. What is a guardian ad litem and why do I need one?

Answer: A guardian ad litem is an attorney that the court will appoint to represent the child's best interest. The law requires that a guardian ad litem be appointed in all guardianship cases.

2. Who are the interested persons that I need to list on the Petition?

Answer: The spouse (if any) of the proposed ward.

Any adult children of the proposed ward.

Any Department or Agency currently providing services or benefits to the proposed ward.

Any facility currently having placement of the proposed ward.

If no spouse, the parents of the proposed ward.

If no spouse, parents, or children, the siblings of the proposed ward.

3. Does the proposed ward need to appear at the hearing?

Answer: That is up to the guardian ad litem. They will need to make a recommendation regarding the ward's appearance at the hearing.

4. How long does it take for all of this to get done?

Answer: A hearing will be scheduled when you return the petition for filing. The hearing is scheduled within 90 days, but can be held sooner if so requested by you.