

Summary: Through a moderated panel of four judges from different circuits, GALs will learn judicial expectations of GALs. This discussion will cover what should be included in a GAL report and recommendations as well as how judges work to insure GALs are paid.

Outline:

- I. Introductions (5 minutes)
 - a. Judge Pablo Eves – McLean County
 - b. Judge David Garcia – Will County
 - c. Judge Karen Wall – Vermillion County
 - d. Judge Lisa Wilson – Peoria County
- II. Expectations of GAL (15 minutes)
 - a. What investigation do you expect from your GALs?
 - b. Do you use both a GAL and a “custody evaluator” in a case?
 - c. How do you see the role of a parenting coordinator working with a GAL, if at all?
 - d. Is the GAL allowed to file pleadings?
 - e. Is the GAL required to attend the trial? If so, is the GAL allowed to ask questions?
- III. Reports and Recommendations by GAL (20 minutes)
 - a. What should be included in a GAL report?
 - b. How can the report be presented (oral, written, combination) and when?
 - c. Can a GAL change the recommendations after presentation of the evidence by the parties at trial?
 - d. How do you handle “hearsay” evidence from the GAL based on the GAL’s interviews/investigation?
 - e. What weight/impact does the GAL report have on your decision?
 - f. What are some examples where you have not followed a GAL recommendation? Why did you not follow the recommendation?
- IV. Payment of GAL (10 minutes)
 - a. How do you handle GAL fees and insuring the GALs are paid?
 - b. What retainer amounts do you order? Do you order GAL to be paid in advance of trial?
- V. Questions (10 minutes)