



Oklahoma Guardian Ad Litem Institute

2ND ANNUAL CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN CONFERENCE

-OKC-

INVESTIGATE. REPORT. PROTECT.

**Roan Resources Building
14701 Hertz Quail Springs Parkway
Oklahoma City, OK 73106**

**OCTOBER
24-25, 2019**

This course has been approved by the Oklahoma Bar Association Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Commission for 12.5 hours of CLE credit, including 1 hour of ethics credit

\$275.00 if you register and pay by October 15, 2019
\$325.00 if you register or pay after October 15, 2019
\$350.00 for walk-ins on day of event

WWW.OKGALINSTITUTE.ORG



CONFERENCE AGENDA

DAY 01, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2019

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM **REGISTRATION & SIGN IN**

9:00 AM - 9:15 AM **WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS**

Sharon Byers, Executive Director, Oklahoma
GAL Institute

9:15 AM - 10:05 AM **BATTERER INTERVENTION PROGRAMS
FROM A TO Z**

This presentation is designed to educate GALs and family law practitioners on what a BIP program is, what it is designed to accomplish, the process of a BIP program, and what we can expect from the program.

Presented by Phil Altes, BIP Director, and Susan Stewart, Manager Logan County Services, Family Builders

10:05 AM - 10:15 AM **BREAK**

10:15 AM - 11:05 AM **UNDERSTANDING CULTURAL
DIFFERENCES IN GAL INVESTIGATIONS**

What every GAL needs to understand about family structures and parenting in different cultures.

Presented by Lily Cruikshank, Attorney at Law

11:05 AM - 11:15 AM **BREAK**



DAY 01 (CONT.)

11:15 AM - 12:05 PM

PARENTING PROGRAMS

Often times the court is looking to the GAL to recommend programs available to address parenting issues in a case. Learn about programs designed to address empathy, anger issues, and dealing constructively with emotions.

Presented by Susan Kester, Manager, Parenting Program, Family Builders

12:05 PM - 1:00 PM

LUNCH (INCLUDED)

1:00 PM - 1:50 PM

PREPARING FOR AND CROSS-EXAMINING MENTAL HEALTH EXPERTS

Assessing the credibility of mental health evaluations of parents and how to cross-examine the expert.

Presented by Heather Cline, Attorney at Law

1:50 PM - 2:00 PM

BREAK

2:00 PM - 2:50 PM

THE EFFECTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ON CHILDREN

Domestic violence can have profound and lasting effects on children. This presentation will address the effects that domestic violence has on children and will bust the myth that children are not effected by domestic violence if they are the not object of the violence or abuse.

Presented by Lauren Garder, LPC, Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

DAY 01 (CONT.)

2:50 PM - 3:00 PM **BREAK**

3:00 PM - 4:20 PM **JUDGES' PANEL: EXPECTATIONS AND PREFERENCES FROM THE BENCH**

Understanding what family law judges expect from a GAL is essential to effective advocacy. Hear from the judges about what they expect from a GAL, what they like to see and what they don't.

Presented by:

Hon. Barbara Hatfield, Canadian County District Court
Hon. Khristan Strubhar, Canadian County District Court
Hon. Charles Gass, Canadian County District Court
Hon. Thad Balkman, Cleveland County District Court
Hon. Lori Puckett, Cleveland County District Court
Hon. Barry Hafar, Oklahoma County District Court
Hon. Lynne McGuire, Oklahoma County District Court
Hon. Martha Oakes, Oklahoma County District Court
Hon. Sheila Stinson, Oklahoma County District Court

4:20 PM **ADJOURN FOR THE DAY**

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM **NETWORKING SOCIAL:
INDUSTRY GASTRO LOUNGE
2800 NW 140TH STREET, OKC**

Get to know your GAL colleagues and join us for a happy hour mingle!



DAY 02, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2019

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM **REGISTRATION & SIGN IN**

9:00 AM - 9:15 AM **WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS**

Sharon Byers, Executive Director, Oklahoma GAL Institute

9:15 AM - 10:05 AM **COUNSELING OPTIONS AND COUNSELING FOR CHILDREN AGES 0-3**

Learn about counseling options for children going through the trauma of family litigation, including counseling options for children birth to 3 years old.

Presented by Jeff Plunkett & LaTrina Washington, Above All Behavioral Services

10:05 AM - 10:15 AM **BREAK**

10:15 AM - 11:05 AM **WHY A GAL SHOULD CARE ABOUT CHILD SUPPORT AND THE HIGHLIGHTS OF SOONER CARE**

There are lots of reasons that a CAL should care about child support. Learn what they are! This presentation will also inform you about Sooner Care - what it does and what the requirements are.

Presented by David Hammons, DHS Child Support Services

11:05 AM - 11:15 AM **BREAK**

11:15 AM - 12:05 PM **OBTAINING DHS RECORDS ON EVERYONE**

When conducting a GAL investigation, it is vitally important to review all DHS records relating to the children in your case. Learn how to obtain DHS records on the children in your case, as well as parents and collaterals, in your role as a GAL.

Presented by Kendall A. Sykes, Attorney at Law, and Sharon Wigdor Byers, Executive Director, OK GAL Institute



DAY 02 (CONT.)

12:05 PM - 12:30 PM **LUNCH (INCLUDED)**

12:30 PM - 1:20 PM **ETHICS IN GAL REPRESENTATION**

Defining the role of a GAL within the confines of the law, ethical considerations in the role of a GAL, and discussion about the standard operating manual for guardians ad litem.

Presented by Sharon Wigdor Byers, Executive Director, OK GAL Institute

1:20 PM - 1:30 PM **BREAK**

1:30 PM - 2:20 PM **PRESENTING & DEFENDING YOUR GAL REPORT**

Presenting your GAL report to the court and defending under cross examination is vitally important in advocating for the best interests of children. Learn from a GAL that has been doing this for years!

Presented by Michelle Smith, Attorney at Law

2:20 PM - 2:30 PM **BREAK**

2:30 PM - 3:20 PM **THE ART OF COMMUNICATING WITH CHILDREN**

Tips and tools for talking with children, gathering pertinent information, and helping children become comfortable talking with you, with a discussion and description of therapeutic supervised visitation - the who, what, where, when and why it should be used.

Presented by Gina Jordan, M.Ed., LPC

3:20 PM **ADJOURN**

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING!!!!!!