



Oklahoma Guardian Ad Litem Institute

# 1ST ANNUAL CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN CONFERENCE - TULSA -

## INVESTIGATE. REPORT. PROTECT.

**OSU - Tulsa**  
**700 N. Greenwood Ave.**  
**Room 110**  
**Tulsa, Oklahoma**

**APRIL**  
**25-26, 2019**

This course has been approved by the Oklahoma Bar Association Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Commission for 12 hours of CLE credit, including 1 hour of ethics credit

\$275.00 if you register and pay by April 15, 2019

\$325.00 if you register or pay after April 15, 2019

[WWW.OKGALINSTITUTE.ORG](http://WWW.OKGALINSTITUTE.ORG)



# CONFERENCE AGENDA

## DAY 01, THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2019

8:15 AM - 9:00 AM

**REGISTRATION & SIGN IN**

9:00 AM - 9:15 AM

**WELCOME**

Sharon Byers, Oklahoma GAL Institute

9:15 AM - 10:05 AM

**ETHICS: AUTHORITY & ROLE OF THE GAL, & ETHICAL PRACTICES**

Defining the role of the GAL and gaining awareness to avoid ethical pitfalls. From confidentiality to conflicts of interest, this presentation will get you started on the right (ethical) foot.

Presented by Sharon Byers

10:05 AM - 10:15 AM

**BREAK**

10:15 AM - 11:05 AM

**GETTING STARTED:  
PREPARATIONS BEFORE  
ACCEPTING YOUR FIRST  
ASSIGNMENT**

Before accepting your first case, you need to get organized. Learn best practices for billing, forms, procedures, and more.

Presented by Curtis Roberts

11:05 AM - 11:55 AM

**GAL INVESTIGATIONS:  
INTERVIEWS**

Interviews are one of the most important tools in your toolbox. Receive guidance about who to interview (or not), learn effective interviewing techniques, and the do's and don'ts of interviewing.

Presented by Cathy Welsh

11:55 AM - 12:15 PM

**BREAK**



# DAY 01 (CONT.)

12:15 PM - 2:15 PM

**WORKING LUNCH**  
**FILM SCREENING & PANEL**  
**DISCUSSION:**  
**RESILIENCE: THE BIOLOGY OF**  
**STRESS & THE SCIENCE OF HOPE**

This is a two-part session.

Part 1: The Film  
Researchers recently discovered a dangerous biological syndrome caused by abuse and neglect during childhood. As the new documentary "Resilience" reveals, toxic stress can trigger hormones that wreak havoc on the brains and bodies of children, putting them at a greater risk for disease, homelessness, prison time, and early death. It also chronicles the movement that is determined to fight back. Trailblazers are using cutting-edge science and field-tested therapies to protect children from the insidious effects of toxic stress—and the dark legacy of a childhood that no child would choose.

Part 2: Panel Discussion with Reactor Panelists

2:15 PM - 2:25 PM

**BREAK**

2:25 PM - 3:15 PM

**GAL INVESTIGATIONS:**  
**OBTAINING RECORDS**

Obtaining records from the courts, DHS, law enforcement, medical providers, and others can be a daunting task. Learn how to navigate these bureaucratic waters to obtain the information you need.

Presented by Sharon Byers

3:15 PM - 4:05 PM

**GAL INVESTIGATIONS: SITE VISITS**

A GAL is often required to visit children, parents, family members, and other collateral contacts outside of the office. This session explores the who, what, when, where, why, and how of conducting safe site visits.

Presented by Allyson Dow

4:05 PM

Adjourn for the day



## DAY 02, FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2019

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM

### **SIGN IN**

9:00 AM - 9:50 AM

### **LESSONS LEARNED: TIPS, TRICKS, & HELPFUL HINTS**

No matter how much training you receive, some lessons come only by experience. Luckily, experienced GALs are willing to share those hard-earned lessons with you. Find out what others wish they knew before putting on a GAL hat.

Presented by Todd Alexander

9:50 AM - 10:40 AM

### **THE GAL'S ROLE IN LITIGATION**

Understanding your role in the litigation process is imperative. From motion practice to mediation, a GAL is an important contributor at every stage. Learn how to effectively participate in the process to protect children.

Presented by Keith Jones

10:40 AM - 10:50 AM

### **BREAK**

10:50 AM - 11:40 AM

### **GAL REPORTS: WRITING AN ACCURATE, INFORMATIVE, EFFECTIVE REPORT**

The format and content of GAL reports varies. This session will provide an overview of different report writing techniques, including organization, content, and style, and provide guidance for writing effective reports.

Presented by Cathy Welsh

11:40 AM - 12:30 PM

### **NETWORKING LUNCH (INCLUDED)**



## DAY 02 (CONT.)

12:30 PM - 1:20 PM

### **KNOW YOUR JUDGE: JUDICIAL EXPECTATIONS & PREFERENCES FROM THE BENCH**

Understanding what family law judges expect from a GAL is essential to effective advocacy.

Get input on this topic from Tulsa County family law judges.

1:20 PM - 3:10 PM

### **THE GAL AS A WITNESS: PRESENTING & DEFENDING YOUR REPORT**

If your case proceeds to a contested hearing or trial, you will likely be called to testify and/or present your report to the Court. In this session, experienced practitioners will demonstrate effective report presentation and cross-examination, and provide advice for giving compelling testimony.

Presented by Stephen Hale

3:10 PM

### **ADJOURN - THANK YOU FOR COMING!!!!**