



7/13/2016

**Fiscal Year 2016-17 Citizen Support and Direct-Support Organization Report  
on the Florida Guardian ad Litem Foundation, Inc.**

This report is submitted in accordance with § 20.058,9 F.S.; requiring citizen support and direct-support organizations to annually submit certain information to the appropriate agency; requiring each agency receiving such information to post submissions on the agency's website; requiring each agency receiving such information to annually submit a report to the Governor, the Legislature, and the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability.

# **Fiscal Year 2016-17 Citizen Support and Direct-Support Organization Report on the Florida Guardian ad Litem Foundation, Inc.**

## **THE FLORIDA GUARDIAN AD LITEM FOUNDATION WAS CREATED PURSUANT TO § 39.8298**

Within the Justice Administrative Commission, the Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office (GAL Program), which has oversight responsibilities for and provides technical assistance to all guardian ad litem and attorney ad litem programs located within Florida's 20 judicial circuits, was authorized to create a Direct Support Organization pursuant to § 39.8298, Florida Statutes.

## **FLORIDA GUARDIAN AD LITEM FOUNDATION MISSION AND RESULTS**

### **Mission**

The Florida Guardian ad Litem Foundation's (the Foundation) mission is to provide additional resources for the GAL Program, its volunteers, and its affiliated circuit non-profit organizations in order to promote Guardian ad Litem representation for abused, neglected and abandoned children in Florida's dependency system.

### **Results**

#### **Advocating and Creating Public Awareness of the Florida Guardian ad Litem Program**

In an effort to support the GAL Program, it is essential that Floridians understand the importance of the GAL Program, as well as its reliance on volunteers to provide a voice for children in dependency court. The Foundation has maintained a public presence by supporting and participating in the Statewide Children's Week held annually in



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Tallahassee. Children's Week brings together organizations concerned with children's issues throughout the state of Florida.

### **Promoting Statewide GAL Volunteer Recruitment and Retention**

Volunteers are crucial to the GAL Program. GAL volunteers represent the best interests of a child involved in Florida's dependency system. With ever changing social workers, schools and even foster parents, often times a GAL volunteer is the one constant adult presence in a dependent child's life. The Foundation supports the GAL Program's goal of representing all of Florida's dependent children in out-of-home care and dependent children to age three years in their own homes.

### **Hiring Chief Executive Officer of the Florida Guardian ad Litem Foundation**

Eric Clark was hired as of July 11, 2016, as CEO of the Guardian ad Litem Foundation. Clark will be working with the local non-profits that support the GAL Program in each of Florida's twenty circuits to advance the Guardian ad Litem Foundation's mission. Clark comes to the Guardian ad Litem



Foundation with immense enthusiasm, experience and ability to get things done. Throughout his career, Clark has shown his dedication to children through his work with the Boys & Girls Clubs in Virginia as well as Florida. His extensive institutional knowledge of the non-profit world will enrich an already successful non-profit network.

### **Bringing Non-Profits Together to Ensure Issues Important to the GAL Program are Promoted in the Legislature**

In the 2016 Legislative Session, the GAL Foundation worked to ensure issues important to the 20 local non-profit organizations and GAL Program were represented in the Florida Legislature. Nine local non-profit organizations contributed to this initiative and began meeting to ensure their voices were represented during the legislative session.

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With every meeting, the GAL Foundation and the non-profits work together to present a unified mission to make sure the needs of Florida's dependent children are met.

**Drafting the *Amended and Restated Bylaws of Florida Guardian ad Litem Foundation, Inc.***

The GAL Foundation updated the Bylaws of the Foundation on March 31, 2016. These Bylaws addressed matters such as the Board of Directors role and responsibilities, meetings, hiring of Foundation CEO, and recordkeeping. The Bylaws along with the GAL Foundation Code of Ethics are posted on the GAL Foundation website: [www.flgal.org](http://www.flgal.org).

**Providing Financial Support to Meet the Needs of Abused and Neglected Children Who Are Represented by a GAL Volunteer**

Supporting the needs of Florida's dependent children is a critical part of the Foundation's mission. Whether through grants, individual or corporate donations, or time, the Foundation has continually worked to provide support to children involved in the GAL Program.

The Foundation received and acknowledged donations from private individuals, corporations, foundations and bequests. Many of the donations received were derived through social media and networking within the community.

Finally, when a child-specific need was identified, the Foundation provided targeted support for unique and unfunded needs of children who are represented by GAL volunteers. The Foundation funded such things as medical needs and money for activities related to normalcy.

## **FLORIDA GUARDIAN AD LITEM FOUNDATION PLANS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2016-2019**

The Foundation's plans for the next three fiscal years focuses on the mission of the Foundation as well as the GAL Program. The Foundation will continue to develop statewide partnerships with private and philanthropic supporters to enhance GAL training and improve advocacy across Florida. These partnerships within the community not only will lead to a better understanding of the GAL Program but also the needs of Florida's abused and neglected children.



The Foundation is partnering with Sunshine Health to provide Regional Volunteer Conferences throughout the Fall and Winter of 2016 and 2017. Training Topics will include Children’s Healthcare and Eligibility; Former Foster Youth Panel;

Information Regarding DCF Safety Methodology and the Hotline; Judges’ Perspective from the Bench; and A Mock Trial with GAL Attorneys.

The Foundation will also assist the GAL Program with branding and public awareness of the GAL mission and recruitment of volunteers. The GAL Program has more than 10,000 volunteers but still needs more to ensure no child goes to dependency court without a voice.

The Foundation will strengthen the network of local Guardian ad Litem nonprofits across the state, in support of a unified mission. Whether through shared conference calls, the Foundation website, emails, or meetings the Foundation will communicate with local non-profits to share best practices concerning fundraising, training and volunteer retention.

The Foundation will continue to sponsor events that recognize the leadership and the success of GAL Program staff and volunteers. The Foundation will also support statewide GAL volunteer training events ensuring GAL volunteers have the latest and best information. The Foundation will serve as a resource to the volunteers on how and where to get the best information and required continuing education.

## **GAL PROGRAM’S RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONTINUE ASSOCIATION WITH THE FLORIDA GUARDIAN AD LITEM FOUNDATION**

The Foundation continues to be an essential support to the GAL Program. The GAL Program recommends the continuation of the Foundation as its Direct Service Organization under § 39.8298, Florida Statutes. The GAL Program supports the Foundation’s plans for fiscal years 2016-2019 as follows:

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- The Foundation will continue to develop statewide partnerships with private and philanthropic supporters to enhance GAL training and improve advocacy across Florida.
- The Foundation will assist the GAL Program with branding and public education of the GAL mission and recruitment of volunteers.
- The Foundation will strengthen the network of local Guardian ad Litem foundations across the state, in support of a unified mission.
- The Foundation will sponsor events that recognize the leadership and the success of GAL Program staff and volunteers.
- The Foundation will continue training opportunities for GAL Program volunteers.
- The Foundation will continue its outreach to potential volunteers through social media including the Foundation website.
- The Foundation will seek private funding to support its activities and those of the GAL Program.



**Alan F. Abramowitz, Esq.**  
**Executive Director Florida Guardian ad Litem Program**

**Florida Guardian ad Litem Foundation, Inc.**

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Tallahassee, FL 32301-2009

PO Box 10688  
Tallahassee, FL 32302-2688  
Telephone: (850) 922-7213  
Website: [www.flgal.org](http://www.flgal.org)

**Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office**

The Holland Building, 600 S. Calhoun Street, Suite 274  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0979

P.O. Box 10628  
Tallahassee, FL 32302-2628  
Telephone: (850) 922-7213  
Website: [www.GuardianadLitem.org](http://www.GuardianadLitem.org)

# Florida Statewide Guardian ad Litem Foundation

## Code of Ethics

### Adopted July 2014

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#### I. INTRODUCTION (Purpose and Intent)

The Florida Statewide Guardian ad Litem Foundation (Foundation) is a Direct Support Organization authorized by §39.8298, Florida Statutes. The Foundation's mission is to provide additional resources for the Florida Guardian ad Litem Programs, its volunteers, and its affiliated circuit non-profit organizations in order to promote Guardian ad Litem representation for abused, neglected, and abandoned children in Florida's dependency system. Pursuant to §112.3251, the Foundation has adopted a code of ethics to guide its employees, board members and committee members in their conduct when acting on behalf of the Foundation.

#### II. STATEMENT OF POLICY

##### A. SOLICITATION OR ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS

- **Influence of Judgment.** No employee/member of the Foundation may solicit or accept anything of value, including a gift, loan, reward, promise of future employment, favor, or service, based upon any understanding that the member's / employee's official actions or judgment would be influenced thereby.
- **Personal Benefit.** No employee/member of the Foundation may **solicit** any gift from a lobbyist or Foundation vendor, where such gift is for the personal benefit of the employee/member or any other person.

##### B. DISCLOSURE OR USE OF CERTAIN INFORMATION

No current or former employee/member of the Foundation may disclose or use non-public information obtained because of their Foundation employment or position as a member for the personal gain or benefit of themselves or any other person or business entity.

##### C. DOING BUSINESS WITH ONE'S AGENCY

No employee/member of the Foundation who participates through decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a purchase request, influences the content of any specification or procurement standard, renders advice, investigates, audits or acts in any other advisory capacity in the procurement of contractual services may become or be the employee of a person contracting with the Foundation.

##### D. UNAUTHORIZED COMPENSATION.

No Foundation employee/members or their spouse or minor child shall, at any time, accept any

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compensation, payment, or thing of value when such employee/member knows, or, with the exercise of reasonable care, should know, that it was given to influence a vote or other action in which the employee/member was expected to participate in his or her official capacity.

No employee / member of the Foundation shall use or attempt to use his or her Foundation position or any property or resource within his or her trust, or perform his or her duties to secure a special privilege, benefit, or exemption for himself, herself, or others

#### **E. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND DISCLOSURE**

All Foundation employee/member are required to provide a signed Acknowledgement regarding provisions of the Foundation Code of Ethics.

#### **F. RESTRICTIONS ON VOTING**

No Foundation employee/member shall vote on any matter that the employee/member knows would inure to his or her special private gain or loss. Any employee/member who abstains from voting in an official capacity upon any measure that the employee/member knows would inure to his or her special private gain or loss, or who votes in an official capacity on a measure that he or she knows would inure to the special private gain or loss of any principal by whom the employee/member is retained or to the parent organization or subsidiary of a corporate principal by which the employee/member is retained other than an agency;<sup>1</sup> or which the employee/member knows would inure to the special private gain or loss of his or her relative or business associate, shall make every reasonable effort to disclose the nature of his or her interest as a public record in a memorandum filed with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting, who shall incorporate the memorandum in the minutes. If it is not possible for the employee/member to file a memorandum before the vote, the memorandum must be filed with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting no later than 15 days after the vote.

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<sup>1</sup> "Agency" means any state, regional, county, local, or municipal government entity of this state, whether executive, judicial, or legislative; any department, division, bureau, commission, authority, or political subdivision of this state therein; or any public school, community college, or state university.



# Florida Statewide Guardian ad Litem Foundation Code of Ethics Adopted July 2014

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**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF FOUNDATION CODE OF ETHICS:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Employee/ Member of Foundation Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (please print name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Form 990-N (e-Postcard) Summary**  
**(\*\*THIS IS NOT A FILEABLE FORM - FOR REVIEW PURPOSES ONLY\*\*)**

Tax period beginning 07/01/2014 and ending 06/30/2015

Organization's legal name

Employer ID number

FLORIDA GUARDIAN AD LITEM FOUNDATION INC

45-0501348

Other names used by organization (DBA)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Number and street (or P.O. box, if applicable)

Room/Suite

Telephone number

PO BOX 10688

8504104642

City or town, state or country and ZIP + 4

TALLAHASSEE, FL 32302

Web address, if applicable \_\_\_\_\_

Check if organization is not a 509(a)(3) supporting organization and its gross receipts meets limits for the tax year .....

Check if organization is terminating (going out of business) .....

**Information regarding principal officer:**

Name

BERT EARP

Street address

1713 MAHAN DR

City, state or country and ZIP + 4

TALLAHASSEE, FL 32308