

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION ABOUT:

THE ATTORNEY AD LITEM LIST; ATTORNEY AD LITEM APPOINTMENT PROCESS; and THE ATTORNEY AD LITEM SEMINAR

1. I want to receive appointments as a **Guardian Ad Litem** for minors and others under Tex.R.Civ.P 173. Will the *Fundamentals of Serving as Attorney Ad Litem*, course help me obtain those appointments?

ANSWER: **NO.** The Harris County courts offer this course to enable attorneys to be on the Harris County list for **attorneys *ad litem***; that is, those attorneys appointed, generally, to represent absent defendants. There is no mandatory, master list for guardian *ad litem* appointments. You should consult individual judges' websites or contact court staff to learn each court's preference on becoming eligible for guardian *ad litem* appointments.

2. I took the Fundamentals of Serving as Attorney Ad Litem course offered by the District Courts last year. Am I required to take the course again to be eligible for the list?

ANSWER: No. On the application, you must certify completion of three (3) hours attorney ad litem education within the past two (2) years.

3. I am on the list of attorneys certified for ad litem appointments created last year. Must I reapply to receive appointments during the next year.

ANSWER: Yes. The current list expires on 12/1/2011. All attorneys who wish to be on the new list must submit an application.

4. I would like to receive appointments for general civil cases, but would prefer not to be an attorney ad litem in tax cases. Is that possible?

ANSWER: No, not at this time. The statute requires that the Court “establish and maintain a list of all attorneys qualified to serve as an attorney ad litem.” Absent special circumstances, all attorney ad litem appointments are derived from the list on an alphabetic, rotating basis. The vast majority of AAL appointments made from the list are to ad valorem tax cases. The course offered by the District Judges will prepare you to handle all types of attorney ad litem assignments, including tax cases.

5. Is the course offered by the Houston Bar Association on guardian ad litem sufficient to qualify for the list?

ANSWER: No. You must have taken a course with a minimum of three (3) hours directed to attorney ad litem service. Education regarding service as a guardian ad litem does not satisfy this requirement.

6. What is the cost of the course?

ANSWER: The course offered by the District Courts is free.

7. Will I receive CLE credit for the course?

ANSWER: Probably. The District Courts have applied for three (3) hours of CLE credit for the course. The course offered last year course was certified for 3 hours of CLE credit.

8. What if I cannot make the October 20, 2011 or November 10, 2011 seminar but want to apply to be on the list?

ANSWER: You may attend any course with a minimum of three (3) hours directed to attorney ad litem service.

9. What do I need to do to attend either the October 20, 2011 or the November 10, 2011 seminar and received credit?

ANSWER: You should send an email indicating your intent to attend to: **civilaal@justex.net**. Unless we receive your email, we cannot guarantee that you will receive the materials necessary for certification for the list or for CLE credit.

10. Where can I get an application and where should I send my completed application?

ANSWER: The application is available online at **www.justex.net**. Submit your completed and notarized application to:

Administrative Office of the District Courts, 1201
Franklin, 7th Floor, Attention: Lisa Rodriguez no later
than December 1, 2011.

11. Does attendance at the October 20, 2011 or the November 10, 2011 seminar guarantee that I will receive civil ad litem assignments?

ANSWER: No. All attorneys who wish to be on the new list must submit an application and be approved to receive ad litem assignments.