

# GAL SOCIAL WORKER

## DEFINITION

Under general supervision, provides independent investigative and social work services for the Guardian Ad Litem Program; performs diagnostic/assessment studies to identify the nature, cause and extent of the family's difficulties; provides recommendations for services on a confidential basis to the program attorneys based on the best interest of the children; performs related duties as required.

## EXAMPLE OF DUTIES

Provides specialized services on cases involving the protection, rehabilitation and care of children; as needed, consults with mental health, social service, and school personnel, and other professionals connected with that case evaluation for the purpose of assessment of children's and parent's individual needs and abilities and recommends appropriate services and treatment; prepares social histories with emphasis on psycho-social factors; prepares and maintains records; conducts individual and family interviews; provides recommendations and information to the program attorneys regarding the best interest of children.

## EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS

Education and Experience: A Master's degree in social work or closely related human services area from an accredited university and six months of professional social work experience; or a Bachelor's degree in social work or closely related human services field from an accredited college or university with two and one-half years of professional social work experience and twenty-five semester post graduate course credits or its equivalent in a human services or related field.

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities: Thorough knowledge of and skill in the application of practices and techniques of family assessment, child growth and development, psychological testing, alcohol and other drug abuse, and cycle of violence; knowledge of causes and treatment of problematic parent child interaction, as well as related local community resources; knowledge and familiarity with physical and behavioral indications of abuse and neglect and conditions or situations which create a risk of harm for children; knowledge and familiarity with factors which can influence bonding attachment; knowledge of Wisconsin juvenile statutes and related guardianship statutes; oral and written communication skills; ability to evaluate needs of the child and the parents in order to determine what, if any, treatment is required in the best interest of the child; ability to communicate effectively with the department of Human Services, children and their families, attorneys and judges; ability to communicate effectively in writing; ability to recognize and assess parental behavior and child behavior associated with varying types of child maltreatment; ability to objectively assess needs of children and families from a variety of economic, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds; and demonstrated ability to maintain accurate records.

Special Requirement: Possession of or eligibility for a valid Wisconsin driver's license and access to personal transportation.