

MAXIMIZING THE ROLE OF THE GAL THROUGHOUT THE LIFE OF THE DELINQUENCY CASE

INTRODUCTION

1. To identify the similarities and differences in the roles of defense counsel and GAL which impact collaboration.

A. Introduction to defense counsel

- i. What is defense counsel?
- ii. What defense counsel is not
- iii. What defense counsel does

B. Introduction to guardians ad Litem

- i. What is a guardian ad litem?
- ii. What a guardian ad litem is not
- iii. What a guardian ad litem does

C. Similarities Between the Role of Defense Counsel and the GAL: Avenues for Enhancing Collaboration

- i. Educating the child about the legal process
- ii. Protecting the child's legal interests
- iii. Engaging parent/guardian support of the child
- iv. Vital interest in child development research

D. Differences: Barriers to Collaboration

- i. Objectives: legal interests versus best Interests
- ii. Confidentiality and privilege
- iii. Work environment

2. To identify the specific collaborative strategies at various delinquency hearings in order to better serve the child.

- A. Detention hearing
- B. Return filing hearing
- C. Status hearing
- D. Adjudicatory hearing
- E. Sentencing hearing
- F. Post-sentencing

3. To identify special issues that require unique collaborative efforts.

- A. Open dependency and neglect and/or truancy case(s)
- B. Communication between defense counsel and guardian ad litem
- C. Reverse transfer hearings

CONCLUSION