

Intro

As a culture, the Ho-Chunk people have always taken care of vulnerable tribal members; the children, elderly, and others with disabilities. The kinship system runs deep and ingrains in Ho-Chunks their responsibilities to each other. There are now courts, social services, and law enforcement agencies to assist with problems. That's where you come in. You are the link and bridge to the community. You are the one who goes out to investigate the situation and advocate for the person. You are a *Guardian ad litem*.

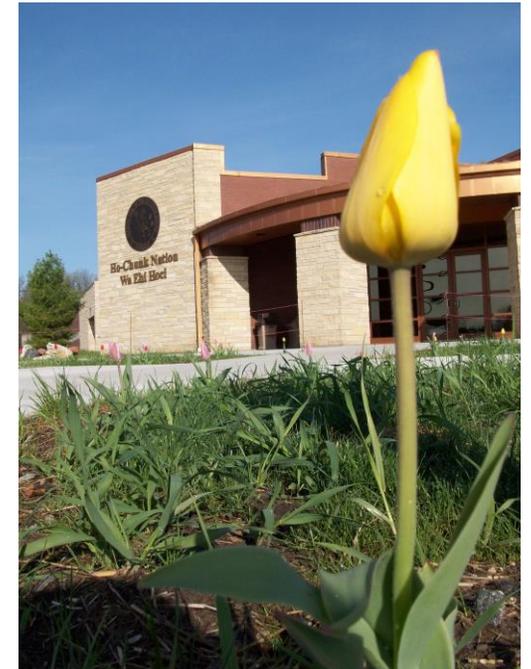


Wa Ehi Hoci
P.O. Box 70
W9598 Hwy 54 E
Black River, Falls WI 54615

Ho-Chunk Nation *Guardian ad litem* Training

November 14 – 16, 2016

Hosted by the Ho-Chunk Nation
Trial Court Staff



What does *Guardian ad litem* (GAL) mean?

A “guardian” is a person who acts to protect or help someone. “Ad litem” means “for the lawsuit.” A GAL assists the Court with understanding what is in the best interests of the child or vulnerable adult.

Minimum Qualifications for a *Guardian ad litem*:

- Have an interest in children, elders, and those with disabilities;
- Have sufficient listening, speaking, and writing skills to successfully conduct interviews, prepare written reports, and make oral presentations;
- No involvement in conduct or activities counter to the discharge of assigned duties;
- Knowledge and appreciation of ethnic, cultural, and socio-economic aspects of the community;
- Year round availability to serve;
- Have completed the pre-service training requirements.

Benefits to being a GAL:

- GALs are compensated for expenses and time expended as part of their duties
- Serve your community and ones in need
 - Foster relationships with other community members

Join us for the training November 14 – 16, 2016!

Upon completing the training, you will receive a ***Guardian ad litem Certificate*** and be recommended to represent children and vulnerable adults in Ho-Chunk Nation Courts.

Day 1: November 14, 8:00am - 4:30pm
Role of a GAL
Rules for GALs
Rules of Civil Procedure
Report Preparation & Billing Info
Appointment Process

Day 2: November 15, 8:00am – 4:30pm
Planning Investigations
Conducting Interviews
Presenting to the Court
Guest Speaker Presentations

Day 3: November 16, 8:00am until noon
Mock Hearing for new GALs

***Current GALs** must attend at least **8 hours** of the annual training to comply with the Continuing Education Requirement.

Call the Clerk of Court to register for a spot in the 2016 training: (715) 284-2722.

What does a *Guardian ad litem* do?

- Conducts interviews and investigations to ensure children are living in safe places
- Makes written and oral reports including recommendations to the Court
- Keeps in contact with parents and wards of the Court
- Reports to Ho-Chunk Nation Child and Family Services and the Court if unhealthy situation is suspected

Resources

The Application, *Ho-Chunk Nation Rules for GALs*, and current panel of approved GALs are available at:
<http://www.hochunknation.com/government/judiciary/guardians-ad-litem.aspx>

Contact Us

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