

Gentlemen/Ladies of the Judiciary Committee

My name is Derek Grant. I am a concerned retired senior citizen, parent and grandparent who has lost trust in our Family Court System. I want to comment on how Bill No. 494, An Act Concerning Guardians Ad Litem and Attorneys for Minor Children in Family Relations Matters, may be improved in this start on necessary reform.

Section 1

- (a) No comment
- (b) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall not apply when the parties have requested that counsel or a guardian ..... (Add after parties) "with attorney representation" have requested
- (c) No comment

Section 2 thru Section 4            No comment

Section 5

- (a) No comment
- (b) ....for the benefit of the minor child (Add) nor any IRA, 401 or other IRS recognized retirement account subject to taxable withdrawn amounts.
- (c) ....the court may order that the (Add "reasonable") fees owing....
- (d) ....for calculating, on a sliding scale basis, the (Add "reasonable") fees owing....

Section 6

... to serve in a family relations matter. (Expand to address outstanding concerns/issues)

For example, in addition to roles and responsibilities, enumerate what GALs must NOT do, nor promote. Illustrate with examples of reported abuses, if practical.

Responsibilities must include providing written statements/reports to any individual party likely to be impacted by any issue the GAL finds to be both significant and negative in nature regarding the assigned role(s) on a timely basis.

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