

Members

TESTIMONY FOR PUBLIC HEARING

The Task Force to Study Legal Disputes Involving the Care & Custody of
Minor Children

Connecticut Legislature

c/o Legislative Judiciary Committee Office

Legislative Office Building/Office 2500

Hartford, CT 06106

Thursday, January 9, 2014

Dear Task Force Members:

I would just like to add that often the financial fraud can't be easily exposed because it goes on behind closed doors. GALs, have their own agenda, and I believe are paid off by the more wealthy client, behind closed doors, without anyone knowing. My GAL has billed me nothing (1 3/4 years of being on our case) but destroyed my time with my kids. I never see my kids and there is no justifiable reason other than false and unproven allegations and frivolous excuses. It is a horror show. The GAL has done nothing in the case so far, nothing. She has not even submitted a formal recommendation to the court. I sincerely believe that she is being outright paid by my ex or his attorney to keep the status quo, by doing nothing and quietly sabotaging my attempts to get a real evaluator in by never stepping in when opposing counsel makes yet another bogus reason as to why this or that therapist is not good.

In my opinion, we do not need GALs. This is just a court scam. If people do take these positions, they should be given the case for a small flat fee and that is it.

I work as a GAL in Florida for economically disadvantaged kids and guess what? The Judge within one month orders that professionals are assigned-- psychiatrists, psychologists, tutors, lawyers etc. The GAL NEVER is the only decider of children's fates and should never be. I realize that a lot of corruption goes on with court assigned professionals and that they can oftentimes be in cahoots with the GAL. So it can be a miserably impossible situation for some of us.

What I am saying is my children and I have been, and continue to be routinely victimized by the GAL. The only chance for my family is get an intelligent and ethical person who steps in.

These GALS are mostly lawyers. They have NO ability, NO experience and NO special education to be making the life-altering decisions that they do (or don't do in my case). The fact that they are considered "trained" after 30 hours, and take continuing education seminars each year, is a absolute joke.

Haven't seen my kids in a long time and I refuse her suggestion of supervised visitation.

We should eliminate GALS altogether as the courts in the past have existed just fine without them. If the court must use them, they should be paid a small flat fee and donate their bloody time. Or, the Judge should at the very least do a financial means test before assigning a GAL.

The court should never allow them to have anything to do with custody decisions, or be allowed to walk into our homes to question our children!! Trained, and only trained people should be allowed to try to make sense out of complex family systems that have complex dynamics and complex solutions.

There is nothing more uncommon as they say, then common sense.

Common sense dictates that these GALS go get a real life and a real job. Common sense dictates that the entire GAL system be totally abolished. Nothing short of this will do for our families.

Bless all of you for undertaking this rough task:)

By Anonymous #2