



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2495		DATE: 2/27/2024	
COMMITTEE: Children and Families			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C."HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 2/27/2024 11:33 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

I am in Support of this Bill and Requiring the Ethical Obligation to Represent the Best-interests of the Children. Isn't this already covered in State Statute and Rules Required by the Missouri Supreme Court?



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BRANDI DENISE NANCE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: btcndt.nance@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2024 8:07 PM
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November of 2018 our granddaughter Rose Harper was brought to my husband and I due to her mother, Cheyenne Harper not being able to care for her after a 2nd divorce. At the time Rose was about 8 months old. She previously had a son who lives with his father and she has visitation. In March of 2019 we were granted guardianship as she was still under our care and no support was given from her mother. Shortly after, a GAL was assigned to the case. Kyla Moorhouse from Lamar, MO. Over the next several years it has been in court proceedings in which our lawyer and (several lawyers) Cheyenne has had along with the GAL have given recommendations and orders of things Cheyenne needed to accomplish. Each time we would go to court, none of the items had been accomplished and it would continue on to another court hearing. In this time, my husband and I had full responsibility of Rose which included health insurance, day care, schooling, food, clothing, etc. with no help from her mother. The GAL was brought up concerns repeatedly with no contact ever made with Rose. In 5 years, not once had anyone other than ourselves, our lawyer and one time the judge ever looked at or talked to Rose. Although Cheyenne was to get behavioral therapy for Rose, it was never gotten. When in 2023, it was ordered that Cheyenne and myself get "relationship" therapy we both went to a therapist that was recommended through her lawyer at the time. This therapist was a state witness and was ordered to give her report to the court when it went to trial. At this point, the therapist talked to Cheyenne, myself, and Rose, all individually as well as group on many occasions. The therapist would contact the GAL and update her on several occasions after. When our court date approached, we were contacted the day before and the GAL finally wanted to talk to Rose and get her input. She decided to do it via video chat for less than 30 minutes and expected a 5 year old to sit in front of a computer the whole time. Court came the next day and the GAL refused to even talk to the therapist that was court ordered. Instead she spoke to a therapist that Cheyenne alone had spoke to on a few occasions and went with what she said and then told the court that while she spoke to Rose, she didn't put much into her opinion. She was 5 and she would get over it. My questions are this. Why? Why are we putting people that are supposed to advocate for children but have either no experience or people who literally don't care what is in the best interest of the child especially when other licensed professionals have given a clear picture of what is going on? When? When do these GAL get held accountable for not doing their jobs? Literally 5 years of "second chances". And then deciding in court to do a "temporary 6 month" placement with the mother by pulling the child from everything she knows and placing her in another state, school, church and everything and keeping her from all of her family? And to do this on CHRISTMAS DAY? With a guardianship everything is in a gray area. We receive NO benefits from the state - healthcare, a paycheck or anything else. We have had her on private insurance, have paid for all of her schooling and care out of pocket as well as all of her medical bills. We have been told a "surprise visit" was to take place..it's been almost 3 months and no visit has been made and only excuses from the GAL as to why. No information has been given regarding schooling, therapy, doctors

or anything else. All things the GAL said she would check on and update. As soon as our daughter got "temporary custody" she placed her on state insurance...this is after she had already been caught committing welfare fraud as she had been claiming both Rose and her older brother to collect benefits from the state. This also was given to the GAL and again no consequences. No accountability. When is it a GAL's moral and ethic obligation to do their job and do it effectively? These children MATTER! These children end up being at a higher risk for mental health issues. These kids are the ones that fill our mental health homes and have problems in school and developing relationships because the people that are supposed to help them do nothing for them. They collect their fee from the case and only cause further harm because they don't listen. Action needs to be taken to ensure that GAL's are held responsible and act accordingly for the cases they are entrusted with.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: KIMBERLY SMITH		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: 2/27/2024 12:00 AM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: REBECCA WANOSIK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: RON MARR		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: r.marr@mail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2024 1:28 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TESSA GORZIK		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: LISA PANNETT		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: ARMORVINE		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/27/2024 12:00 AM	
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