

AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF SUPERINTENDENCE FOR THE COURTS OF OHIO

Comments Requested: The Supreme Court of Ohio will accept public comments until August 21, 2025, on the following proposed amendments to the Rules of Superintendence for the Courts of Ohio.

Comments on the proposed amendments should be submitted in writing to: Kyana Pierson, Supreme Court of Ohio, 65 South Front Street, 6th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215, or GALRuleComments@sc.ohio.gov not later than August 21, 2025. Please include your full name and mailing address in any comments submitted by email.

Key to Adopted Amendments:

1. Unaltered language appears in regular type. Example: text
2. Language that has been deleted appears in strikethrough. Example: ~~text~~
3. New language that has been added appears in underline. Example: text

1 **RULES OF SUPERINTENDENCE FOR THE COURTS OF OHIO**

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3 **RULE 48.02. Appointment of Guardian Ad Litem.**

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5 **(A) Orders of appointment**

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7 Each court appointing a guardian ad litem under this rule shall enter an order of
8 appointment. The order of appointment shall include statements regarding all of the
9 following:

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11 (1) Whether it is a sole guardian ad litem appointment or a dual guardian ad
12 litem and attorney appointment;

13
14 (2) That unless otherwise specified by court rule, the appointment shall remain
15 in effect until discharged by order of the court;

16
17 (3) That the guardian ad litem shall be given notice of all hearings and
18 proceedings and be provided a copy of all pleadings, motions, notices, and other
19 documents filed in the case;

20
21 (4) That the guardian ad litem report shall include the following language: “The
22 guardian ad litem has provided this report ~~shall be provided to the court,~~
23 ~~unrepresented parties, and legal counsel. Any other disclosure of the report must~~
24 ~~be approved in advance by the court in accordance with the Rules of~~
25 ~~Superintendence for the Courts of Ohio. Any party receiving a copy of this report~~
26 ~~may not disclose this report or its contents without the permission of the court.~~
27 Unauthorized disclosure of the report or its contents may be subject to court action,
28 including the penalties for contempt, which include fine and/or incarceration.”

29
30 (5) The rate or amount of compensation for the guardian ad litem in allocation
31 of parental rights and responsibilities cases;

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33 (6) The terms and amount of any installment payments and deposits in
34 allocation of parental rights and responsibilities cases.

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36 **[Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]**

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39 **RULE 48.06. Guardian Ad Litem Reports.**

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41 **(A) General report requirements**

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43 **[Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]**

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45 (2) All reports shall include the following warning: “The guardian ad litem has
46 provided this ~~report shall be provided to the court, unrepresented parties, and legal counsel.~~

~~Any other disclosure of the report must be approved in advance by the court in accordance with the Rules of Superintendence for the Courts of Ohio. Any party receiving a copy of this report may not disclose this report or its contents without the permission of the court. Unauthorized disclosure of the report or its contents may be subject to court action, including the penalties for contempt, which include fine and/or incarceration.~~

[Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]

(B) Guardian ad litem reports in abuse, neglect, dependency, unruly, and delinquency reports

(1) ~~A Not fewer than seven days prior to any initial dispositional hearing, permanent custody hearing, and any hearing upon a motion requesting a change in disposition, a guardian ad litem in abuse, neglect, dependency, unruly, and delinquency cases and actions to terminate parental rights shall provide a written report to the court, unrepresented parties, and legal counsel not less than seven days prior to any initial dispositional hearing, permanent custody hearing, and any hearing upon a motion requesting a change in disposition, who shall provide the report to their client. The court must approve any additional disclosure of this report or its contents by a party. Unauthorized disclosure of the report or its contents may be subject to court action, including the penalties for contempt, which include fine and/or incarceration. The court may alter the seven-day period as may be necessary for the administration of justice.~~

(2) A court shall review all guardian ad litem reports, written or oral, to ensure that the guardian ad litem has performed those responsibilities required by R.C. 2151.281.

(C) Guardian ad litem reports in allocation of parental rights and responsibilities cases

(1) ~~A Not fewer than seven days before the final hearing date, unless the due date is modified by the court, a guardian ad litem in proceedings involving the allocation of parental rights and responsibilities, custody, and visitation shall provide a report to the court, unrepresented parties, and legal counsel not less than seven days before the final hearing date, unless the due date is modified by the court, who shall provide the report to their client. The court must approve any additional disclosure of the report or its contents by a party. Unauthorized disclosure of the report or its contents may be subject to court action, including the penalties for contempt, which includes fine and/or incarceration.~~

[Existing language unaffected by the amendments is omitted to conserve space]