

## **PART 4 ATTORNEYS GUARDIAN AD LITEM, ATTORNEY FOR A CHILD, OR CHILD REPRESENTATIVE**

### **Rule 55 Attorney-qualifications**

(a) Per Illinois Supreme Court Rule 906 any attorney who is appointed by the court to participate in a child custody/visitation matter in the capacity as a guardian ad litem, attorney for the child, or child representative, must meet the following requirements:

1. Within two (2) years prior to the appointment, the attorney shall have ten (10) hours in approved continuing legal education courses in the following areas: child development; roles of guardian ad litem, attorney for a child, and child representative; ethics in child custody cases; relevant substantive state, federal, and law in custody and visitation matters; family dynamics, including substance abuse, domestic abuse and mental health issues.
2. The attorney must be an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Illinois.
3. The attorney must have legal malpractice insurance in effect.

Attorneys who meet the above requirements will be placed on an approved list for the 10th Judicial Circuit.

(b) The procedure of placement and removal from the list are the same as for a mediator.

### **Rule 56 Attorney-continuing education requirements**

(a) Periodic continuing education is required in the following approved child-related courses: child development; roles of guardian ad litem, attorney for a child, and child representative; ethics in child custody cases; relevant substantive state, federal, and law in custody and visitation matters; family dynamics, including substance abuse, domestic abuse and mental health issues. The attorney shall complete 5 (five) hours of the aforesaid continuing education within two (2) years from initial placement upon the approved 10th Judicial Circuit list and submit certification of the courses to the chief circuit judge or judicial coordinator.

(b) The Office of the Chief Circuit Judge and the Domestic Relations Court Judicial Coordinator shall maintain a list of approved education programs. An attorney may request approval of a non-listed educational program from the chief circuit judge or the judicial coordinator.