

17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT POSTING FOR SERVICES

INDEPENDENT CONTRACT ATTORNEY - JUVENILE ABUSE AND NEGLECT GUARDIAN AD LITEM

The 17th Judicial Circuit Court is accepting applications for an independent contract position to provide services as a dedicated Guardian ad Litem in juvenile abuse and neglect proceedings. This contract position will be primarily assigned to **Winnebago County Juvenile Justice Center Courtroom 2**. This contract position is an integral component in the overall provision of child welfare services in Winnebago County through the delivery of designed best practices for guardian ad litem representation.

This position will become available on **September 12, 2026**.

LOCATION: Winnebago County Juvenile Justice Center – Rockford, Illinois

SUMMARY OF RESPONSIBILITIES: Applicant will serve as an independent contractor pursuant to agreed terms and conditions established by the Office of the Chief Judge. Contractor is responsible for providing timely, knowledgeable, and effective legal representation of court involved minors and Winnebago CASA.

Responsibilities include representing the best interests of the child in court; research, investigation, correspondence and document preparation for their assigned cases and clients; visitation with the minors in the home within which they reside and in the community; contact with caseworkers, school personnel, foster parents, and other key individuals.

Juvenile Justice Center Courtroom 2 operates with two contract guardian ad litem positions. The schedule followed by the Court alternates between an “in-court week” for scheduled cases followed by an “out-of-court week” for these two positions, allowing each contract attorney time to attend to visits with minors and other work performed outside of the courtroom. The intake of new cases is split up between a total of two courtrooms and four contract positions.

POSITION REQUIREMENTS: Applicants must possess a J.D. degree from an accredited law school, and licensed and in good standing with the Illinois Supreme Court. Experience in juvenile abuse and neglect proceedings will be given preference. Studies and other related experience in psychology, child development or social work also given preference.

Applicants should have attained 10 hours in the two years prior continuing legal education courses in any of the following areas: child development; roles of guardian ad litem and child representative; ethics in child custody and allocation of parental responsibilities cases; relevant substantive state, federal, and case law in custody, allocation of parental responsibilities, visitation, and parenting time matters; implicit bias; and family dynamics, including substance use disorders, domestic abuse, and mental health issues. Selected applicants who have not yet achieved this, will need to take necessary steps (as aided and guided by the Office of the Chief Judge) to obtain.

COMPENSATION: \$8,750.00 per month. Contractor is responsible for all state, local and federal tax obligations and the maintenance of all office and equipment expenses. Contractor is provided shared workspace within the Juvenile Justice Center and is further supported by a shared administrative assistant to aid with file organization, record keeping, scheduling, and phone reception

SEND RESUME AND COVER LETTER TO: Thomas R. Jakeway
Trial Court Administrator
17TH Judicial Circuit Court
400 West State Street, Room 215
Rockford, IL 61101
tjakeway@17thcircuit.illinoiscourts.gov

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