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01/22/2025

2024-DR-0000134

Rene Bottin

Clerk of District Court

Filed By: Glenda Brown

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT, FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
COUNTY OF SHERIDAN, STATE OF WYOMING**

<p>██████████, Plaintiff,</p> <p>vs.</p> <p>██████████, Defendant.</p>	<p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p> <p>)</p>	<p>Civil No. 2024 ██████████</p>
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ORDER APPOINTING GUARDIAN AD LITEM

This matter having come before the Court on the Plaintiff's *Motion for the Appointment of a Guardian ad Litem*, the Court having reviewed said motion and being otherwise advised of the premises, does find good cause exists to grant said Motion to represent the best interests of the minor child.

IT IS ORDERED:

1. That ██████████ is hereby appointed to serve as GAL for the minor child, ██████, and shall represent the best interests of the child before this Court.
2. The GAL shall be an officer of the Court, shall be an attorney for the minor whom they are appointed to serve, and shall assist the Court in reaching a decision as to which party

shall be awarded physical and legal custody of the minor child. The GAL shall also assist in reaching a decision regarding reasonable visitation.

3. The GAL shall be paid at the rate of \$250 per hour. The fees of the GAL shall be apportioned equally between the parties unless and until otherwise ordered by the Court.
4. The parties are each to make an initial deposit against the fees of the GAL in the amount of \$1,500.00 (for a total initial deposit of \$3,000), which deposit shall be made within fifteen (15) days from the date of this Order. The GAL shall keep a record of time expended on the case and bill against the initial deposit. When the initial \$3,000 is depleted, the retainer shall be refilled as a rolling retainer. If, after the GAL's initial review, the matter appears to be particularly high conflict, the GAL may direct the parties to establish a larger rolling retainer.
5. In this case, as in most cases, the Scheduling Order issued prior to the appointment of the GAL. The GAL, and counsel for the parties, may move to add certain deadlines to the Scheduling Order if needed and are directed to confer in good faith prior to any motion. The Court will consider any necessary modification to the initial Scheduling Order to accommodate the parties' requests. In determining such deadlines, the parties should consider a date for the GAL to begin her initial investigation which may allow time for the parties to attempt settlement, an initial conference with the parties, deadlines for interim reports, if any, and a deadline for the GAL to provide a final report and recommendations to the parties.
6. The GAL shall prepare and file a pretrial memorandum which shall address the following, in lieu of the parties' pretrial memorandum requirements set forth in the Scheduling Order:
 - a) Whether the GAL's investigation is complete;

- b) Whether the GAL's final report and recommendations have been provided to counsel and the parties.
7. The GAL shall file witness and exhibit lists by the same dates as the parties, pursuant to the deadlines set in the Scheduling Order.
 8. The GAL shall have the right to inspect all records relating to the minor child maintained by the Clerk of the District Court, the Department of Family Services, the Juvenile Court, any school, daycare provider, hospital, doctor or other medical service provider, any mental health agency or other mental health provider, and any other social or human services agency without necessity of written consent by the parents or the Court. This Order authorizes any individual or organization to release those records to the GAL. The GAL shall have the right upon reasonable notice to examine any residence wherein any person seeking custody proposes to house the minor. The GAL is entitled to request financial, medical, mental health and other records of the parties. The GAL may request this Court order an examination of the child by the medical or mental health professional, if appropriate. Each parent shall promptly sign any authorizations necessary to allow the GAL access to records and to communicate with the above individuals or entities.
 9. The appointment of the GAL shall continue until such time as the matters pertaining to custody, visitation, maintenance or education raised in this action are settled, dismissed or otherwise adjudicated.

DATED this 22nd day of January, 2024.

DARCI A.V. PHILLIPS
DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

Copies to: [REDACTED].



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01/22/2025
By: Glenda Brown
Deputy Clerk
Sheridan County District Court