

GUARDIAN AD LITEM C.L.E. TRAINING

Session: *Playing the GAL Game – 51 Questions*

Presenter: Scott Kording
Attorney at Law
Meyer Capel, A Professional Corporation
202 North Center Street, Suite 2
Bloomington, IL 61701
Phone: (309) 829-9486
Fax: (309) 827-8139
E-mail: SKording@MeyerCapel.com

Sponsor: McLean County Bar Association

Date: Tuesday and Wednesday, October 23-24, 2018

Background: In October 2014, Attorney Kording was tasked with presenting a lengthy continuing legal education presentation about relevant statutes and caselaw which may impact attendees in their service as and interactions with guardians *ad litem* (“GALs”). The presenter organized a three-round game based upon the popular television game show *Jeopardy*.

The game board was displayed visually on a screen in front of the audience, and the presenter acted as the host of the game. The presenter would call upon attendees to select a category and dollar amount in each of the “Single Jeopardy” and “Double Jeopardy” rounds. In typical *Jeopardy* fashion, each selection was then identified to reveal an “answer” to which the proper “question” must be supplied. Each correct “question” resulted in the award to the attendee of a number of points. Each attendee kept his or her own running score.

The vast majority of the questions resulted in a discussion of the applicable statutory provision or caselaw which supplied the appropriate response. There frequently were lively discussions between and among attendees and the presenter, and participant engagement was very high.

The game culminated in a “Final Jeopardy” round where a broader single “answer” was provided so that attendees were required to provide a written “question.” Throughout the presentation, the “host” interjected various humorous stories and commentary, and a few of the game components (certain categories, some “answers” and “questions,” etc.) were designed for comedic purposes.

The 2014 presentation, which lasted between 90 and 115 minutes, was very well received by the more than 100 attorneys in attendance. Another version of the “game” session was presented during the McLean County Bar Association’s GAL

training seminar in March 2017. The 2017 version also was roughly the same lengthy, and it was again well received.

Overview: This year's presentation during the October 23-24 GAL training seminar, which is still partially under development, will build upon the success of the 2014 and 2017 presentations of this material. After receiving very positive feedback for the innovative manner in which this lengthy presentation was delivered in 2014, the presenter will use the allotted time to walk the attendees through a similar *Jeopardy* game this time around, too.

Relevant statutory provisions affecting the mechanics and work of GALs, child representatives, and attorneys for children are the fodder for "answers," and the revealed correct "questions" contain the statutory citations. In addition, relevant cases from the Illinois Supreme Court and the Appellate Court since January 1, 2015, are cited as source material when each correct "question" is discussed with the group.

The presenter is presently still working through a set of approximately 574 Illinois reviewing court opinions since January 1, 2015, that touched in some way upon a "guardian *ad litem*," whether by mere reference or through detailed discussion of the GAL's involvement. The final selection of cases will be inserted into the presentation once the caselaw review is complete.

Beyond providing statutory and caselaw updates (as well as some additional local humor and commentary), the presenter this year will distribute individual gamecards/scorecards so that attendees have a better way to track their individual performance during the game. In this way, participant concentration and engagement should be facilitated.

The instructor uses a modified PowerPoint presentation with hyperlinking functionality to prepare and deliver the "game" portion of the presentation. At the conclusion of the presentation, the presenter will distribute, through the administrative assistant of the McLean County Bar Association, a copy of all of the PowerPoint slides to all attendees.

Methods: The presenter will use the following instructional methods to deliver the session content:

- Prepared questions-and-answers
- Game simulation
- Individual commentary from presenter
- Group discussion on relevant issues/cases/statutory provisions
- Video-screen display of written content/citations/"answers" and "questions"
- Humorous anecdotes/commentary

Exemplars: The presenter is submitting with this materials summary an exemplar of the final product of the PowerPoint slides from the 2017 presentation, together with the 2017 “scorecard” distributed to participants, to give MCLE Board reviewers the opportunity to get a feel for the presentation’s content and delivery.