

What to do when speaking to a Guardian ad Litem?

Written by Alex

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A Guardian ad Litem (“GAL”) is someone who is supposed to be neutral and has some expertise relating to child custody issues and generally they are a mental health clinicians or an attorney. If you can try and provide as much factual detail without getting into blaming the other side or being defensive, admitting is one thing, second is admitting the mistakes that you made; admitting has more credibility; being calm and being able to present what happened in a logical fashion, even if it means writing down an outline of what you will discuss with the GAL. Being polite to the GAL and not overly emotional. If they come to your home, have a clean and neat home, understanding that the GAL is likely to take a tour of your home, including the children’s bedrooms. Having a list of potential witnesses or contacts and you should not have just relatives or close friends, as many people that have no reason to be for one side or the other; such as pediatricians, teachers, coaches, and guidance counselors. People that are more neutral that can provide and be less biased are general things that are helpful for the GAL. These are just a few tips when meeting with a GAL.