

**BACKGROUND AND STATEMENT OF
QUALIFICATIONS AS REQUIRED BY RCW 11.130.155
COVER PAGE
INFORMATION**

Business Name/Firm: Karen C. Koehmstedt, Attorney at
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Title 11 GAL/COURT VISITOR
Background and Statement of Qualifications as required by RCW
11.130.155

****This will be posted on the Benton & Franklin Counties Superior Court Website for public viewing****

I, Karen C. Koehmstedt, have the following background, knowledge, training, and experience to be on the:

- ☒ **Title 11 Adult Guardianship Court Visitor Registry**
- ☐ **Title 11 Minor Guardianship/Conservatorship Court Visitor Registry**
- ☐ **Title 11 Minor Guardianship/Conservatorship GAL Registry:**

A. My highest level of formal education: My highest level of formal education: 1987 Juris Doctorate from University of Puget Sound (now Seattle University) School of Law awarded cum laude.

B. Training related to Court Visitor and/or Guardian ad Litem's duties: Recertification training May 16, 2025, Recertification training October 25, 2024, Recertification training January 11, 2024, Recertification training February 24, 2023; Recertification training November 4, 2022; Recertification training December 10, 2021; Recertification training October 1, 2021; Recertification training March 6, 2020, Recertification training, December 13, 2019, Recertification training November 30, 2018, re-certification completed March 2018, Special training for 2017, May 2016, No CLE offered or required in 2015 - writing samples submitted, April 2014, May 2013, November 2012, 2011 (Lay Guardian Certification,) September 2010, June 2009, April 2008, September 2005, March 2004. The Washington State Bar Association CLE on RCW 11.88 (predecessor statute) GAL training on at least two prior occasions. An additional 1-hour CLE on LLCs and the new Power of Attorney statute was attended November 15, 2016.

C. Number of years' experience as a Guardian ad Litem and/or Court Visitor: 36 years (first appointment 1990)

D. Number of appointments as a Guardian ad Litem and/or Court Visitor [as of today's date] and the county or counties of appointment: (specify as to what role served)

a) Number of appointments: 68 total: 43 appointments were Title 11 registry appointments including adult and minor guardianships; special appointments involving breach of fiduciary duty by professional guardian; and review of trust accounting (typically Special Needs Trusts.) The other appointments were 12 Minor Settlements under special proceedings rules (SPR 98.16,) and 13 were Title 26 appointments.

b) Counties appointed in: Benton and Franklin

E. Criminal history [as defined in RCW 9.94.A.030]:

☒ I do NOT have a criminal history as defined in RCW 9.94.A.030.

☐ I do have a criminal history as defined in RCW 9.94.A.030. [Please explain each instance on a page and attach hereto.]

F. I have knowledge, training, and experience in the following areas:

[Check all that apply and provide detailed descriptions]

☒ Impaired elderly: I have relatives who have become elderly and subject to limitations due to physical and/ or mental impairments. I have assisted elderly neighbors.

☒ Persons with physical disabilities: I have physical disabilities. I have been injured in the past and recovered. I have close friends with physical disabilities. I am very familiar with people with physical disabilities.

☒ Persons with mental illness: As a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney and as a Public Defense Attorney I participated in numerous mental and alcohol commitment hearings. I have reviewed numerous medical and psychiatric charts and interrogated expert witnesses on such diagnoses.

☒ Persons with developmental disabilities: I have considerable experience on cases involving young adults who are turning 18 years of age, but have long term developmental delays. Many of these folks, while not all, have an Autism Spectrum Disorder diagnosis.

☒ Other areas relevant to the needs of persons subject to guardianship or

conservatorship. I am very familiar with Respondent's needs and often their limitations.

☒ Legal procedures involving guardianships: I am an attorney. I am familiar with procedures.

☒ Provisions of RCW Chapter 11.130

G. I have been previously removed from a Guardian ad Litem registry or Court Visitor Registry pursuant to a grievance action:

☒ No

☐ Yes [Please explain each instance on a page and attach hereto. Include the name of the county, court, and cause number(s).]

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Washington that the foregoing is true and correct.



Signature

Karen C. Koehmstedt, Attorney at Law, PS

Printed Name & Date

061026.