

**BACKGROUND AND STATEMENT OF
QUALIFICATIONS AS REQUIRED BY RCW
26.12.175(3)
COVER PAGE
INFORMATION**

Business Name/Firm: Karen C. Koehmstedt, Attorney at Law
PS

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Title 26 GAL

Background Information Record as required by RCW 26.12.175(3)

****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 **Benton-Franklin Title 26 Guardian ad Litem Registry**:

- A. 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. General training related to Guardian ad Litem's duties: I have litigated custody, parenting plan, paternity and non-parent custody (now minor guardianship) cases since 1990. I am on the Title 11 (Adult Guardianship) Guardian ad Litem list (now referred to as Court Visitor) and have conducted numerous investigations as a Title 11 Court Visitor. I am a trained mediator, family law mediator, and practice collaborative law (specifically collaborative divorce.)
- C. Specific training related to issues potentially faced by children in dissolution, custody, paternity, and other family law proceedings: Superior Court training on the following dates- May 21, 2026, May 17, 2024, February 2024, February 2023, February 2022, December 2020, December 2019, September 2018, May 4, 2017, September 2016, September 2015, October 2014, May 2013, May 2012, October 2010, January 1999 (24 hour initial training.) Introductory Collaborative Law Training 2008 (13 hours.)
- D. Specific training or education related to child disability or developmental issues I have litigated dependency and termination of parental rights cases. These often involved parents or children with disabilities. I have examined many expert witnesses testifying regarding the same. On the Title XI registry, I have conducted many GAL investigations involving children (now 18) who had Autism Spectrum Disorder. As a GAL appointed pursuant to SPR 98.16, I was appointed on a case involving a professional guardian breaching fiduciary duty to a disabled minor.
- E. Number of years' experience as a Guardian ad Litem: 36 (first appointment 1990)
- F. Number of appointments as a Guardian ad Litem [as of today's date] and the county or counties of appointment:
 - 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 Counties
- G. I have been previously removed from a Guardian ad Litem 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).]

H. I have founded allegations of abuse or neglect as defined in RCW 26.44.020:

☒ No

☐ Yes [Please explain each instance on a page and attach hereto.]

I. A background check is completed annually by Benton/Franklin Counties Superior Court through Washington state patrol criminal identification section.

J. A statement of my criminal history [as defined in RCW 9.94.A.030] for the period covering ten years prior to this date was supplied to Benton/Franklin Counties Superior Court.

K. Other information not required by statute:

a. I have the following professional licenses or certifications: License to Practice Law

b. I have the following trial experience as a GAL: I have testified in at least two trials, numerous court appearances and inquiry from the court

c. Other: _____

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


Signature & Date 861026

Karen C. Koehmstedt, Attorney at Law,
P.S.

Printed Name