

**BACKGROUND AND STATEMENT OF
QUALIFICATIONS AS REQUIRED BY RCW**

26.12.175(3)

COVER PAGE

INFORMATION

Business Name/Firm: T. Symons Services

Phone Number: (509) 845-4533

Mailing Address: 8350 W. Grandridge Blvd., Suite 200,
Kennewick, WA 99336

Registry Email: TaraSymonsGAL@gmail.com

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, Tara Symons, MSW, MBA, LICSW, 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: Master of Social Work; Master of Business Administration
- B. General training related to Guardian ad Litem's duties: Title 11 CWGAL certification, Title 19 CASABAL Certification, Title 26 GAL Certification
- C. Specific training related to issues potentially faced by children in dissolution, custody, paternity, and other family law proceedings: See attachment
- D. Specific training or education related to child disability or developmental issues See attachment
- E. Number of years' experience as a Guardian ad Litem: 13
- 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: 103 Title 26 GAL appointments
- b) Counties appointed in: Benton, Franklin, Kittitas, Klickitat, Skamania, Spokane, Walla Walla, Yakima
- 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: LICSW, PI
- b. I have the following trial experience as a GAL: 25+
- c. Other: _____

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

Signature

Tara Symons 04/23/2026
Printed Name & Date

Summary (statement) of knowledge/training/experience (2025-2026)

- (i) **The needs of impaired elderly people:**
 - Gerontology: Family and Social Relationships, 1.0 CE hours, 2025
- (ii) **Physical disabilities:**
 - Shaken Baby Syndrome, 1.0 CE hours, 2025
- (iii) **Mental illness:**
 - Crisis Intervention Specialist II certification, 16 CE hours, 2025
 - Schizophrenia: Impact on the Family, 1.0 CE hours, 2025
 - Chicken or the Egg: The Cannabis and Psychosis Debate, 1.0 CE hours, 2025
 - The American Case Management Association: Behavioral Health, 1.5 CE hours, 2025
 - Relational Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) Therapy for the Treatment of Complex Trauma, 1.5 CE hours, 2025
 - Recognizing and Diagnosing Adults on the Autism Spectrum, 1.0 CE hours, 2025
 - Hoarding: Insights and Innovations for Social Workers, 1.5 CE hours, 2025
 - Care of Patients at Risk for Suicide, 1.0 CE hours, 2025
 - Histrionic Personality Disorder, 1.25 CE hours, 2025
 - Implementing Trauma-Informed Sensitive Practice 1.0, 2025
 - Supporting the Mental Health of DACA recipients, 2.0, 2025
 - Ethical Social Work with Suicidal People, 1.5 hours ethics, 2025
- (iv) **Developmental disabilities:**
 - Children with Developmental Disabilities, 1.0 CE, 2025
 - Caring for the Developmentally Disabled Adult, 1.5 CE hours, 2025
- (v) **Substance use disorder:**
 - Dose of Justice: Enhancing Naloxone Distribution and Education, 1.0 CE hours, 2025
 - Pain Management – Differentiating Physiological Dependence and SUD, 1.5, 2025
 - Intersections Between Trauma and Addiction, 1.0 CE hours, 2025
- (vi) **Developmental needs and levels of children:**
 - Trauma-Responsive Grief Support for Youth and Families Impacted by Homicide Deaths, 3.5 CE hours, 2026
 - Sexualized Behaviors in Children, 1.25 CE hours, 2025
 - Reactive Attachment Disorder, 1.0 CE hours, 2025
 - Child Maltreatment: Neglect, 1.0 CE hours, 2025
 - Complex Trauma in Children and Adolescents, 1.5 CE hours, 2025
 - Dating Violence in Adolescence, 1.0 CE hours, 2025
 - Pediatric Care: Crisis Intervention, 1.0 CE hours, 2025
 - Adoption, an Overview, 1.0 CE hours, 2025

- The Harms of Corporal Punishment, 1.5 CE hours, 2025
- What Works for Teens – Evidence Based Practice for Clinicians, 1.0 CE hours, 2025

(vii) Other:

- Everything Hurts: How Trauma Became the Theory of Everything, 1 CE hr, 2026
- Walla Walla County GAL refresher training, 6 hours, 2026
- Ethics, 3.0 CE hours, 2026
- Hispanic Cultures, 1.5 CE hours, 2025
- Guiding Clients through Difficult Conversations in Couples Therapy, 1.0 CE hours, 2025
- Emotional Intelligence in Social Work: Strengthening Professional Practice, 1.5 CE hours, 2025
- Implicit Bias Training for Caregivers, 1.0 CE hours, 2025
- The Art of Interviewing, 1.0 CE hours, 2025
- Case Management of Homeless Persons, .5 CE hours, 2025
- Bereavement Support for the Loss of a Child, 1.25 CE hours, 2025
- Complex Ethics Cases and Conceptually Based Decision-Making Protocols, 3.0 CE hours Ethics, 2025
- Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention for Social Workers 1.0 hr, 2025
- Understanding the Role of the Social Worker in Family Court, 2.0 CE hours, 2025
- Revisions to the NASW Code of Ethics – Self-Care and Cultural Comp., 1.5 Ethics, 2025
- Challenges and Complexities of Cultural Competency in Social Work Practice, 1.0, 2025
- Tools for Social Workers to Prevent Gun Violence, 1.0 CE hours, 2025