

BACKGROUND AND STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS
AS REQUIRED BY RCW 11.130.155

COVER PAGE

Information

Business Name/Firm Name: Talesha Sams

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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, Talesha Sams, have the following background, knowledge, training, and experience to be on the ***Benton-Franklin Title 11 Adult Guardianship Court Visitor Registry***.

A. My highest level of formal education: J.D Degree.

B. Training related to Court Visitor and/or Guardian ad Litem's duties:

Initial Training in 2002 and annual training in 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2026.

C. Number of years' experience as a Guardian ad Litem and/or Court Visitor: 24.

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: 81.

b) Counties appointed in: Spokane County; Benton-Franklin Counties.

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 previously worked as a nurse and respiratory therapist in assisting with the care and management of the elderly impaired in nursing homes and hospitals. I performed both physical and mental assessments of patients in order to determine the most appropriate care for their individual situations. Once assessments were completed, it was my job to implement their care in a manner which would meet their present and future needs. I have also received training in geriatrics through my nursing studies and CLE's.

☒ Persons with physical disabilities:

I have assisted persons with physical disabilities in nursing homes and in hospitals as it pertains to their daily care. My duties involved performing assessments of their disabilities and implementing a care plan that would meet their individual needs. I also assisted in the care of patients who have suffered from diabetes and cancer as well as kidney failure and pulmonary fibrosis. I have received advance medical training as it relates to various physical disabilities. I realize that a physical disability can be a sensitive aspect of a person's life and can grossly affect their daily routines depending on the individual and this must be considered when assessing an individual regarding their care.

☒ Persons with mental illness:

I majored in psychology and received training in clinical psychology. I also received clinical experience in assisting patients with mental illness while doing my nursing and respiratory therapy rotations at local hospital psychiatric wards. I am familiar with the numerous mental illnesses, symptoms, and the various clinical manifestations of each. I also understand that even though a person with a mental illness may have experiences which seem out of the ordinary and uncommon to most people, these experiences are still very real to them and should be treated

as such. I recognize that a person's mental illness can sometimes affect the manner in which they are able to care for themselves.

■ Persons with developmental disabilities:

I have worked as support staff for Youth and Family Services which involved counseling juveniles with a wide range of developmental disabilities as well as social issues. Persons with developmental disabilities are oftentimes frustrated with their situations and extra patience and consideration must be used in order to properly evaluate their situations. Some individuals are able to function with developmental disabilities while others are not and this must be considered when performing assessments.

■ Other areas relevant to the needs of persons subject to guardianship or conservatorship.

I have worked with a large variety of incapacitated individuals and realized that incapacities are not easily recognizable. As such a person must consider and review all aspects of a person's life such as social skills, the ability to care for themselves, and their living conditions among others prior to making a final determination as to whether a person should have a guardian appointed on their behalf.

■ Legal procedures involving guardianships:

I worked as a Rule 9 legal intern in the Family and Elder Law Mini Clinics at University Legal Assistance. As an attorney with a private practice, I have also worked with cases which have involved guardianships in one aspect or another. I have worked as a guardian ad litem for over 18 years.

■ Provisions of RCW Chapter 11.130

I am very familiar with the mandates of RCW 11.130 regarding appointment, qualifications, and removal of guardians as well as the powers and duties of a guardian or limited guardian. I have also reviewed the above statutes in regard to working on other GAL cases. I have also worked with Adult Protective Services for over 14 years involving vulnerable adults.

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.

Talesha Sams 09/01/2026

Signature & Date

Talesha Sams

Printed Name