

The Court Report

District 22B
Guardian ad
Litem- Davie
and Davidson
Counties-
Winter 2010



Contact Us

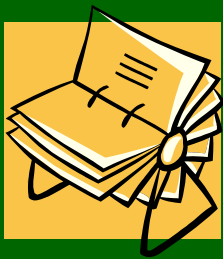
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Please visit our
website at:
www.gal22b.org

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Changes to IV-E Adoption Assistance Eligibility

For more information, go to:

http://info.dhhs.state.nc.us/olm/manuals/dss/csm-78/man/Section%201600.htm#P16_346

Information from Deana Fleming, GAL Associate Counsel

The following are major changes that affect the children who are in foster care:

- At the initiation of the adoption proceeding, the child must be in the custody of DSS or licensed private adoption agency due to juvenile court intervention or by a relinquishment. What this means is that if the juvenile court awards custody or guardianship, the custodian or guardian later seeks termination of parental rights and adoption, the child is NOT eligible for federal adoption assistance payments. This change may be a significant factor in determining the appropriate permanent plan for a child, particularly if financial resources of the proposed custodian or guardian are limited.

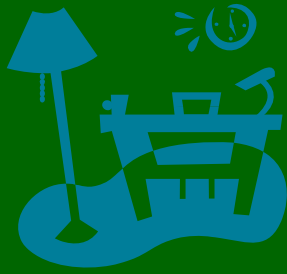
- Any child who has been in foster care for 60 consecutive months is considered an “applicable child” under the new policy.

- Any child who is a sibling of a child who is an “applicable child” and placed in the same adoptive arrangement is also eligible.

- Changes in the child’s age requirements and special needs diagnosis include: children age 2 or younger must have a specific applicable special needs diagnosis to qualify for the monthly adoption assistance payments, unless placed with an older sibling with special needs; children ages 2-6 who do not have a special needs diagnosis or part of a sibling group must be a member of a minority race or ethnic group to qualify for monthly adoption assistance payments

***As a reminder, the purpose of adoption assistance payments is to encourage the adoption of older youth; sibling groups; children with specific special needs; and children of an ethnic minority.





**From the Desk
Of...
Seth Houk,
District
Administrator**

I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season. We were happy to see almost everyone in person sometime in December between Court, parties, and present deliveries! Starting the new year can be exciting with resolutions and changes (I have given up soda in 2010!) and challenging with sticking to older commitments (still cleaning the bathroom every weekend). I wanted everyone to take a minute to read President Obama's proclamation declaring January National Mentoring Month:

January 6, 2010: The White House has released President Obama's proclamation stating that January is officially National Mentoring Month in America.

The proclamation, in part, reads: "Every day, mentors in communities across our Nation provide crucial support and guidance to young people. Whether a day is spent helping with homework, playing catch, or just listening, these moments can have an enormous, lasting effect on a child's life. During National Mentoring Month, we recognize those who give generously of themselves by mentoring young Americans."

"NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim January 2010 as National Mentoring Month. I call upon public officials, business and community leaders, educators, and Americans across the country to observe this month with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs."

In addition to the President, the U.S. Senate recently passed an official resolution for National Mentoring Month 2010.

I hope you can see (I know it can be tough sometimes!) how much of an impact you have on the lives of the children you represent. As this new year starts and you go out to fulfill your new resolutions, please remember your old commitment as a GAL and know just how much of a difference you are making in the life of a neglected and abused child. Thank you again for all of your hard work and dedication, and stop by the office any time to catch up with us!

Tax season is upon us and I'm sure you're all excited about preparing your return (especially Camille Lawrence). Please note that any mileage you incurred on your personal vehicle while performing duties related to your volunteer work with GAL will be tax deductible if you were not reimbursed by the State previously. The State did reimburse your mileage through April 15, 2009, but any mileage after that or that you didn't submit to the State will be eligible. For more information on the deduction and rate (\$0.14/mile), visit the IRS website here <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/i1040sca.pdf> page A-8.



Birthdays

- Dora Kanoy 1/1
- Beth Campbell 1/5
- Mike McElvogue 1/11
- Bob Dewitt 1/15
- Lisa Forsythe 1/16
- Mary Beth Stanley 1/25
- Marie Muskovin 2/1
- Joanne Krayniewski 2/11
- JoAnn Smith 2/19
- Shirley Jones-Byrd 2/24
- Jack Crutchfield 2/27
- Kathy Rudin 3/6
- Joanne LeDonne 3/13
- Dan Timberlake 3/20
- Jennifer Loflin 3/28

**Happy Birthday to
You!!!**



Anniversaries

1 Year

- Shirley Jones-Byrd
- Teresa Tagnani

2 Years

- Donese Campbell
- Joseph Gary
- Ginger Hinshaw

3 Years

- Alisa Ragan

5 Years

- Susan Terrell

6 Years

- Glenda Pierce

8 Years

- Cindy Deegan
- Bob Dewitt
- Loretta Miller



Quarterly Stats

Davidson

New petitions: 17
Closed petitions: 27
Reunif./Guardianship: 19
Adoption: 3
Transferred: 1
Petition dismissed: 4
Hearings: 192

Open cases:

71 families
110 children

Davie

New petitions: 3
Closed petitions: 0
Hearings: 58

Open cases:

22 families
37 children



Word Scramble "Winter Months"

n s w o

t a e n l v e n i

u h g o g r o n d

n a e p u h r c l e

d c l o

(Answers on page 4)



**Please welcome our new volunteers!
We are glad you have joined us!!**



Pictured: Jennifer Loflin, Crissy Lemly, Marlyce Vaughn and John Camp with Judge Penry in Davidson County.

Not pictured: JoAnn Smith and Joanne LeDonne in Davie County.

Christmas Lunch In Davie

December 21, 2009

Thanks to all who were able to attend!

Back row: Jack Crutchfield, Donese, Campbell, Mary Beth Stanley, Bruce Braunstein, Seth Houk
Front row: Christy Sheets, Rene Singletary, Joanne LeDonne, Laura Bodenheimer, Michele Poe





“Give a Day, Get a Disney Day” To Celebrate and Inspire Volunteerism

The District 22B Guardian ad Litem office has been approved to be a participating organization in the Give a Day, Get a Disney Day celebration!

Disney is offering a 1 day, 1 theme park ticket to one million do-gooders! The goal is to encourage one million people to volunteer a day of service in their communities.

If you are interested, please contact the GAL office. For more information, go to: http://disneyparks.disney.go.com/disneyparks/en_US/WhatWillYouCelebrate/index?name=Give-A-Day-Get-A-Disney-Day



Christmas Party

The Guardian ad Litem program is blessed each year to participate in a Christmas party hosted by a local church. This year, there were 17 kids from our program in attendance, along with their relatives or guardians.

Whitley’s Restaurant provided a wonderful dinner and the church members provided gifts for the kids. It was a perfect night! Many thanks to the local church involved (they want to remain anonymous) and Whitley’s Restaurant. Santa was also in attendance and he brought a huge bag of gifts for each child. It was magical, and we are so thankful to be a part of the party each year.



Goochies Recipe

Submitted by Seth Houk

- 1 stick margarine
- 1 stick butter
- ½ cup sugar
- 13 graham crackers, broken into pieces
- 1 cup chopped pecans



- Place crackers on a foil lined cookie sheet and sprinkle with pecans.
- Melt margarine, butter and sugar and let boil for 2 minutes, pour over crackers.
- Bake at 350 no longer than 10 minutes.

5 Happiness Secrets for Tough Times

From www.rd.com

1. Focus on your relationships.
2. Practice acts of kindness.
3. Avoid overthinking.
4. Pick a goal.
5. Take care of your body.



Fun Days

January

- 17th- Pig Day
- 21st- Hugging Day
- 23rd- Measure your Feet Day
- 28th- Nat’l Kazoo Day

February

- 3rd- Nat’l Carrot Day
- 7th- John Deere’s B’ day
- 17th- Championship Crab Races Day
- 20th Toothpick Patented

March

- 5th- Stop the Clocks Day
- 16th- Nat’l Artichoke Hearts Day
- 30th- Eraser-Topped Pencil Patented (1858)
- 31st- Oranges and Lemon Day



Answers to Word Scramble:

- snow, valentine, groundhog, leprechaun, cold