

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF MECKLENBURG

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
DISTRICT COURT DIVISION
FILE NO.: ____-CVD-_____

Plaintiff,

vs.

Defendant

**ORDER APPOINTING
GUARDIAN AD LITEM-ATTORNEY and
CLC CUSTODY ADVOCATES**

This matter was heard to consider custody and visitation issues concerning the following child(ren): _____, born _____; born _____, born _____, born _____, born _____; and _____, born _____.

It is in the child(ren)'s best interests, and expedient to the administration of justice that a guardian ad litem-attorney and Custody Advocate be appointed to represent the child(ren). The Children's Law Center is a private, non-profit organization which represents children in legal proceedings and operates the Custody Advocate Program which assigns attorneys and lay persons to represent children in custody and visitation cases.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that:

1. Pursuant to Rule 17 (b)(3) of the North Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure, _____, an attorney at the Children's Law Center, is hereby appointed as the guardian ad litem-attorney for the child(ren) named above. _____ shall serve as the CLC Custody Advocate(s).
2. The guardian ad litem-attorney and CLC Custody Advocate shall represent the child(ren)'s best interest in all custody and visitation matters and, at the Court's discretion, any child support issues. Their responsibilities shall include without limitation, the following:
 - a. To receive, review or copy documents concerning the child(ren), whether or not the document is otherwise confidential;
 - b. To investigate and determine the facts, the child(ren)'s needs and the resources available to meet those needs and to present that information at Court hearings;
 - c. To appear at all Court hearings and represent the child(ren)'s interests by examining and cross-examining witnesses, otherwise presenting evidence and making arguments to the Court;
 - d. To collect and present to the Court, to aid in custody and visitation determinations all available reports, evaluations, and other information regarding the child(ren);
3. The guardian ad litem-attorney and CLC Custody Advocate are further authorized to review and receive all information, records and reports concerning the child(ren) and the parties to this action, including medical and educational, wherever located, whether confidential or not, that may in their opinions be relevant to this action.

4. All agencies and the parties are hereby ordered to cooperate with the guardians ad litem-attorneys and CLC Custody Advocates appointed herein in the fulfillment of these responsibilities.
5. The guardian ad litem-attorney and the CLC Custody Advocate shall not disclose any information about the child(ren) or the child(ren)'s family except to the extent necessary to fulfill the duties and responsibilities imposed by this Order.
6. This appointment shall continue throughout the minority of the child(ren) or until further order.
7. The parties shall pay a retainer of \$ _____ by (date) _____ to the CLC at 404 East Trade St., Charlotte, NC 28202 to be apportioned in the following manner:

Defendant shall pay \$ _____

Plaintiff shall pay \$ _____

-or-

- The court has determined that the parties are not financially able to pay ongoing fees for the services of the Custody Advocate Program. Each party shall pay \$25.00 within the next three months to the Children's Law Center as his or her total obligation.
8. Once the retainer has been exhausted, fees calculated at a rate of _____ per hour shall be paid periodically whenever a statement and fee affidavit are presented to the parties by the Custody Advocate Program. All fees will be subject to review and enforcement by this court.

This the _____ day of _____, 20 ____ .

District Court Judge Presiding

cc: Plaintiff
Defendant
CLC