

MARYLAND, That Sections 3-801(f), (g), and (r), respectively, of Article Courts and Judicial Proceedings, of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1974 Volume and 1976 Supplement) be and they are hereby renumbered to be Sections 3-801(q), (r), and (s), respectively.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That new Sections 3-801(p) and Section 3-834 be and they are hereby added to Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings, of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1974 Volume and 1976 Supplement) to read as follows:

Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings

~~3-801.~~

~~(P) "GUARDIAN AD LITEM" MEANS AN ATTORNEY APPOINTED BY THE COURT TO REPRESENT THE BEST INTEREST OF A CHILD UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE COURT.~~

3-834.

(A) IN ADDITION TO ANY REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL FOR CHILDREN, AT ANY TIME DURING THE PENDANCY OF ANY ACTION WHERE IT APPEARS TO THE COURT THAT THE PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF A CHILD REQUIRES INDEPENDENT REPRESENTATION, THE COURT SHALL MAY, UPON ITS OWN MOTION, OR THE MOTION OF ANY PARTY TO THE ACTION, APPOINT AN ATTORNEY AS GUARDIAN AD LITEM TO REPRESENT THE INTEREST OF THE CHILD IN THAT PARTICULAR ACTION. SUCH ACTIONS INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO THOSE INVOLVING A CHILD IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE, CHILD IN NEED OF SUPERVISION, DELINQUENT CHILD, OR MENTALLY HANDICAPPED CHILD.

(B) THE COMPENSATION FOR THE SERVICES OF THE GUARDIAN AD LITEM ATTORNEY MAY BE ASSESSED AGAINST ANY PARTY OR PARTIES TO THE ACTION, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO A PARENT, RELATIVE, DEPARTMENT OF OFFICE OF THE LOCAL COUNTY, OVER WHICH THE COURT HAS JURISDICTION, OR BY WHATEVER MANNER AND METHOD AS THE COURT MAY DETERMINE.

~~(C) A PERSON APPOINTED AS GUARDIAN AD LITEM AND PARTICIPATING AS SUCH IN GOOD FAITH IS IMMUNE FROM CIVIL LIABILITY IN CONNECTION WITH THE PERFORMANCE OF DUTIES AS GUARDIAN AD LITEM.~~

SECTION 3 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1977.

Approved May 26, 1977.