Job Description

Guardian ad Litem

As an intern, I have limited responsibilities. My role is to shadow what each Guardian ad Litem volunteer, lawyer, and advocate do in order to ensure that each individual child receives an adequate voice in court. I spend most of the work day in the courtroom listening to each case. While each case is being presented to the residing judge, I am in the general sitting area with the other intern taking notes and reading the disposition that was handed to me prior to walking into the office. Some of the time, I will be required to do office work. For example, I will be required to read, file, or mail paperwork. From January twenty-fourth through February twenty-fourth I am required to attend sessions from nine thirty in the morning until twelve in the afternoon with other Guardian ad Litem volunteers. The sessions are training sessions to eventually become a certified Guardian ad Litem volunteer. After each session is completed, I am to further my studies and knowledge each week by complete individual activities that relate to the next session’s material. The activities consist of reading article or made up cases, watching videos, and posting to discussion boards about my reflections of what I read or watched.

My opportunity as an intern with Guardian ad Litem will assess the organization and the agency by allowing me to shadow and take notes on each of the different cases. I will assess how each case is handled, how each case is different, therefore, handled differently. I will be able to assess how the Guardian ad Litem conducts their duties with the program through my training sessions, and through the Guardian ad Litem’s volunteer that testifies in court on any particular day. They will assess my performance about the knowledge that I learn by the end of my internship. I will complete my training and learn about to conduct my behavior when it comes to speaking with parents and children. I will also be assessed on my knowledge on the different type of court proceedings in the process for which a child may be taken from a home and placed into another, and everything that happens in-between. I will be assessed on how effective I am with my work, how diligent and how dedicated I am.

I will apply my sociological imagination as my role as an intern when it comes to the different types of cases that are being tried and the great variety of people who are involved with each case. I will also apply it in the sense of who attempts to make their situation better, and who does not. The way the children are treated, I will use my sociological imagination to try and predict why those incidents occurred. This job is essentially my stepping-stone for my career. I will get to see first hand the law aspect of each case, as well as, going through training to have knowledge about the social work side of the case. I hope by the end of the semester, to leave the internship knowing which route I plan to take. To make sure that I network properly, I will make connections with the Guardian ad Litem lawyer, as well as the different advocates to ensure that I receive a good recommendation, good references, and perhaps possible connections to other GAL agencies in New Jersey.