



NC Judicial District 9  
E-Newsletter  
Third Quarter 2021

# New Class of Advocates Join D9



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The Honorable Judge Amanda Stevenson, District Court Judge for Judicial District 9, administered oaths to new GALs virtually via WebEx On June 22, 2021.

New Guardians ad Litem are: Brandy Prince (Person County), Princess Watkins (Person County), Desiree Decker (Granville County), Sharon Williams (Granville County), and Holly Kersey (Vance County).

We welcome our new D9 volunteers and look forward to working with them in securing safety and permanence to the children we serve.

**Marathon** – Judge Stevenson’s word to the new advocates on Guardian ad Litem work. Guardians ad Litem commit to being involved for the long haul, not just a short dip. It does get hard but there is great joy when you cross the finish line as that child attains permanence.



## ARE YOU MISSING NOTIFICATIONS?

Every active Guardian ad Litem volunteer has a state issued ncalvolunteer email and OneDrive account. Staff are using email as primary means of notification. It is a program expectation that this is the only email account used for Guardian ad Litem work. Remember, it is web-based, not app based, accessible through Office.com. If you can't get into your account, please notify your supervisor who will arrange a password reset.

## OFFICE365 AND QUARANTINED EMAILS

Is a social worker telling you they've emailed something but you've yet to receive it? From GAL Administrator, Cindy Bizzell "...some volunteers are not receiving emails because the emails are being quarantined. Every 3 days, Microsoft will send an email to the volunteer with a link to their quarantine folder, where they will be able to review and release the emails into their inbox." Check your email for a Quick Start Guide Releasing Quarantined Email.

## STATE OFFICE OFFERINGS

Guardian ad Litem advocates are encouraged to check their ncalvolunteer email accounts for opportunities that our state office training team has shared.

### GAL Retreat

Friday, August 13th 10:00

*Let's Stay Together*

*"Rejuvenating, Motivating and Collaborating to Keep the Drive Alive"*

Children's Home Society will facilitate this 1 ½ hr. session.

Registration needed.

Watch your email for announcement and registration instructions.



### WHAT DID STAFF MISS?

**Thursday, July 8<sup>th</sup> 3:30 pm** – In-service for Guardians ad Litem that have taken their oaths since April 2020 (*and anyone one else who's interested*). Join staff for discussion on your experience thus far as advocates and include what you wished you'd known.

**Template Tuesdays**- Lunch-on-your-own and Learn Court Report template training each week focusing on one of the six court report templates. Will include brief presentation on the report's purpose and instructions followed by discussion on challenges and case specific questions. Sessions will run from 12p-1p.

- ⇒ July 13th Youth Transitioning to Independence Template
- ⇒ July 20th Post Termination of Parental Rights Template
- ⇒ July 25th Termination of Parental Rights Template
- ⇒ August 3rd Permanency Planning Template
- ⇒ August 10th Review Template
- ⇒ August 17 Disposition Template

## Birthdays

### July

- Kim Faulkenbury
- Kimberly Lambert
- Tammy Pettiford
- Terri Reynolds
- Deborah Fox
- Vickie Rollins
- Nancy Coleman
- Sherri Holliman
- Bonnie Buchanan
- Dana Vidrine
- Jayne Bremer
- Geornesha Harris

### August

- Patrick Jaques
- Susan Jaques
- Connie Ryman
- Deborah Davis
- Carolyn Stoklas
- Almice Floyd-Gill
- Bernadette Wortham
- Mary Towell
- Doris Swann

### September

- Robin Scruggs
- Mary Vaughn
- Carolyn Roy
- Gail Birdsong
- Mary Kuga
- Melissa Thomas
- Dottie Reading
- Patricia Allen
- Betty Currin

## You've Been Busy



From March 1 2021– May 31, 2021

Hearings: 303 Scheduled

Children attaining permanence: 34

New Children: 32

Thank you for all you do for the children in District 9!



## Quotes from GAL

“Seeing these two adopted makes up for all the frustrations to get to this day.” KBM

“These parents are the most prepared for reunification I’ve seen in my years as GAL” BG

“I don’t know who was happier for the in-person visit, me or the children.” -SH

“I know I’m not liked right now but I’m good because I said what had to be said.” MH

# CDC's Eight Tips for Safe and Healthy Summertime Work and Play

**Travel abroad safely-** Before traveling abroad, check out health and safety risks at your destination. Animal illnesses and drinking water might be very different from what you're used to and could make you sick. Get needed vaccinations at least 4 to 6 weeks before you leave to ensure you're protected by the time you travel. Many countries are experiencing measles outbreaks, including Brazil, England, France, Israel, Japan and Ukraine. New anti-malarial medications are available for travelers to parts of the Caribbean, Central and South America, Southeast Asia, and Africa. About 1,700 cases of malaria are diagnosed every year in U.S. travelers who go abroad.

**Swimming safety-** Swimming, one of the most popular summer activities for children and adults, gets the spotlight May 20–26, when we observe Healthy and Safe Swimming Week. CDC recommends that everyone check out the latest inspection score of pools where you plan to swim. Chemicals like chlorine are added to pool water to kill germs and stop them from spreading, helping to keep swimmers healthy. However, mishandling pool chemicals can cause injuries.

**Young Worker Safety and Health-** Young workers (ages 15–24) have higher rates of job-related injury compared to adult workers. To help keep young workers safe at their summer jobs, CDC's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is participating in the social media campaign, #MySafeSummerJobexternal icon, to provide workplace safety and health information and resources to employers of youth, young workers, parents, and educators.

**Beat the heat and rays-** Heat kills more than 600 people in the United States each year. The best ways to protect yourself from heat include staying cool, hydrated, and informed: find air-conditioning during hot hours and wear cool clothing, drink plenty of liquids, and pay attention to heat advisories. Sunburn is a common summertime injury. Unprotected skin can be burned by the sun's UV rays in as little as 15 minutes. CDC recommends staying out of the sun between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., when its UV rays are at their highest level. Sunscreen is recommended for anyone working and playing outside in the summer, even on cloudy days. Hats, sunglasses, and long sleeves are also recommended for outdoors activities.

**Children's health and safety-** To keep kids healthy and safe all summer long, be sure children use helmets that fit well while riding their bikes and follow playground safety tips from CDC's website. Parents should ensure children stay safe while traveling in cars. Children should be properly buckled in a car seat, booster seat, or seat belt height, and age — on every trip.

**Stay up to date on vaccines-** Making sure your child is up to date on vaccines is key to protecting them against serious diseases throughout their life. The summer is a great time to make appointments for your child to get recommended vaccines or to catch up on vaccines they might have missed when they were younger.

**Food safety-** Food poisoning peaks during summer months due to warmer temperatures, which can let foodborne germs thrive. Each year, 1 in 6 Americans get sick from eating contaminated food.

**Insect protection-** Protect yourself and your family from insect bites by using EPA registered insect repellent with active ingredients such as DEET.



# DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR'S TWO CENTS



The lazy days of summer are here, but it's not slowing down District 9's GAL program work. Four staff support the work of 3 attorney advocates co-appointed with 86 Guardian ad Litem volunteers to represent the best interests of 216 children in the 5 counties. These children have court cases because of abuse and neglect. Though virtual contact remains an option, Guardian ad Litem advocates are glad to cautiously resume in-person visits, meetings and court appearances as COVID-19 restrictions ease. It is also notable that the number of children needing representation is increasing, which increases the need for volunteer advocates. We see the difference volunteer voices make for children in our courts and our community. We also know there are people we haven't reached or haven't found us yet. The District's next virtual preservice training for interested community members begins September 9th and it would be great to have a full class. Information and application available at North Carolina Guardian ad Litem ([volunteerforgal.org](http://volunteerforgal.org)) Who will you invite?

*- Mary Jo Van Horne, District Administrator*

## Guardian Ad Litem Offices

**Franklin County Office**  
P.O. Box 673  
Hobgood Courthouse Annex  
113 S. Main St.  
Louisburg, NC 27549  
(919) 497-4244

**Vance County Office**  
Vance County Courthouse  
156 Church St.  
Henderson, NC 27536  
(252) 430-5121

**Granville County Office**  
PO Box 2183  
147 Williamsboro St.  
Oxford, NC 27565  
(919) 690-4921

**Person County Office**  
Person County Courthouse  
105 S. Main St. Roxboro, NC 27573  
(336) 503-5265

Email: [GAL.District09@nccourts.org](mailto:GAL.District09@nccourts.org)



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A CHILD'S ADVOCATE IN COURT