

From: [Alexis Young](#)
To: [RulesCommittee](#)
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Attorney's should be required to receive mandatory training on domestic violence prior to being assigned a G.A.L to ensure the safety and best interest of the children they are responsible for overseeing. Too often Judges deem the recommendation of the Guardian At Litem to be accurately sufficient, considering they are responsible for investigating any allegations of each party and whom the child in common would be safest, and in the best interest of the child/children to be with. Much more often Guardian At Litem's fail to even meet with both parties in a case or meet the children involved and properly assess the risks before coming to the conclusion of their recommendation to the court. This failure to sufficiently investigate any claims and possible risks of danger has directly affected the lives of those very children and the safe parent fighting to reach that safety they have been denied. Ensuring adequate training for attorneys prior to being assigned a Guardian At Litem would provide attorneys with the knowledge of how to determine a safe parent from a dangerous parent and properly make recommendations that truly do reflect the best interest of the children involved. Implementing proposal 26-07 would not only contribute to the lack of knowledge of domestic violence many attorneys have but it would directly impact the lives of many victims and survivors fighting to keep their children and themselves safe from further abuse.