From: Peter Sirois Sent: Friday, September 27, 2024 1:46 PM To: <u>cassandra.a.brown@oplc.nh.gov</u> Subject: GAL training or schooling scholarship.

Good afternoon Cassandra,

I received your contact information from Angela Delyani. She was the GAL in my divorce. My divorce was perhaps the most challenging case the Nashua courts have seen in a long time.

It's over now.

Without Angela my children would have suffered a lot longer. The Nh court was not prepared for a divorce like we had and did not have the time to resolve it for many years. When my ex finally cooperated under the advice of her 4th or 5th attorney to give in and finally let a GAL be assigned to the case things finally started to move in the correct direction and shortly thereafter my girls were returned to me after being alienated from me and the rest of their family for over 9 months with no contact.

Angela, was the only person in the case that took the time to investigate, ask the right questions, figure out what was true and what was real and then make the recommendations necessary to the judge so that my girls lives could be saved.

I feel indebted to her forever as she was my savior and the girls savior. My girls are both doing very well now. my oldest is in honors classes and getting nearly straight A's when before she was missing 40-50 days of school per year and failing.

My youngest has been reunited with the rest of her family and is a happy child again now.

I now believe from firsthand experience that the GAL is the MOST important person in a contentious divorce when children are involved.

The lawyers and judges are incapable of taking the proper time necessary to effect change. The GAL makes the time.

I want to give back to respect the wonderful work that Angela did.

Without knowing what It takes to become a GAL I'm guessing that a yearly scholarship to be awarded to one successful applicant each year would be a good way to do it. I am thinking American Steel could offer it up each year and people that want to apply for it could send a letter to us explaining why they want to be a GAL. When I was a high school student I won a college scholarship in this manner from the Henry C Lord foundation out of Peterborough as well as some others from the lions club and American Legion. I had to fill out some forms and write a letter to each of them. The format seemed to be a good way to do it.

I don't know how much it costs to be trained to be a GAL, but I'm confident ASF would be able to fund \$5000 per year by including this in our yearly budget of donations/charity work.

It's such an important job I want to help people get into the role.

Does this sound like a good program to you?

I am open to suggestions. I just want to do something for this much needed cause so that other families get the help they need and hopefully don't have to suffer as long as my girls and I did.

Peter Sirois

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