

July 11, 2024

To: Marion County Board of Commissioners  
Re: Marion County Guardian ad Litem Budget request

Dear Marion County Board of Commissioners,

The Guardian ad Litem Office would like to thank you for your continued support of our mission. The office has experienced growth of staff in order to meet the recent Legislative Mandate of the Guardian ad Litem Office being appointed on 100% of the children involved in Dependency cases. We are currently meeting that goal as of July 1. Since January 2024, we have added 5 additional staff to our office. Our total staff numbers in the office as of July 11 is 21 with 5 remaining open positions we are actively recruiting and interviewing. We anticipate additional positions being awarded to us by the end of 2024. With this growth, the county has been generous with helping redesign the office layout to accommodate the room for expansion. With growth comes additional expenses to meet the needs for our staff to complete the daily tasks of their respective duties. The need exists for resources such as computer equipment, office phone lines, and cell phones. This equipment is a necessity for the staff in meeting our obligation to represent the legal and best interest of the children.

I trust this explanation of the additional expenses will satisfy your request. If further information is needed, please do not hesitate to contact me personally.

*Barbara Robertson*  
Circuit Director