

February 22, 1999

H 114. GUARD. AD LITEM/ATTYS. TO PROVIDE FOR ATTORNEY REPRESENTATION OF CHILDREN REPRESENTED BY GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROGRAM THROUGHOUT PROCEEDINGS OF THE CASE. Amends GS 7B-601 as title indicates (attorney required now only through dispositional phase of case and after disposition when necessary to further best interests of the child).

Intro. by Hiatt.

Ref. to Judiciary IV

GS 7B

April 20, 1999

H 114. GUARD. AD LITEM/ATTYS. Intro. 2/22/99. House committee substitute makes the following changes to 1st edition. Rewrites amendment to GS 7B-601 so it now provides as follows. Amends GS 7B-601(a) to provide that juvenile is party in all actions under subchapter. Provides that appointment of guardian ad litem shall terminate when permanent plan has been achieved for juvenile and approved by court (now, appointment shall terminate at end of two years). Expands duties of guardian ad litem to include conducting follow-up investigations to insure that court orders are being properly executed and to report to court when needs of juvenile are not being met. Makes conforming change to GS 7B-601(b). Amends GS 7B-601(c) to provide that guardian ad litem has authority to obtain information or reports relevant to case (now, court may grant guardian ad litem the authority to demand information or reports). Provides that no privilege other than attorney-client privilege may be invoked to prevent guardian ad litem and court from obtaining information (now, prevents invocation of physician-patient and husband-wife privilege to prevent guardian ad litem and court from obtaining information).