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**APPLICATION FOR PIERCE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
PARENTING INVESTIGATOR/GUARDIAN AD LITEM
CERTIFIED REGISTRY TITLE 26**

SUPERIOR COURT
ADMINISTRATION

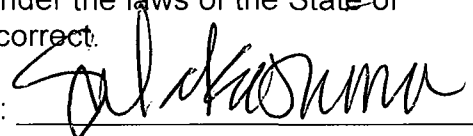
This application is for Guardians ad Litem currently serving on the Pierce County Superior Court RCW 26.09 Guardian ad Litem Certified Registry

THIS IS PUBLIC INFORMATION

I herby certify under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that my application is true and correct.

Date Signed: March 18, 2009

Signature:



WSBA Number and Year Admitted: WSBA 20003 Admitted 1990

Printed Name: Sheri Nakashima

Business Address: PO Box 5675
Bellevue, WA 98006

PO Box 6980
Tacoma, WA 98417

Business Phone Number: 425-466-2327

FAX: 425-484-2007

Trainings attended in the past year:

<u>Training</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>
Domestic Violence (Impact on Children)	3.25.09	South King County Comm. Network
Professional Mediation Skills Program (40 hours)	1.11.08	U of W School of Law

In House Trainings

Family Law Atty. Roundtable	2.21.08	Pierce Cnty. Superior Court
Liability and Immunity for GALs	4.17.08	Same
Investigations	5.17.08	Same
Military and Family Issues of DV and Child	11.20.08	Same

Abuse Bipolar and Mental Health Issues	12.18.08	Same
Family Law Court: Past, Present, Future	1.18.09	Same

Prior to 2008

<u>Training</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>
Faculty Member, Domestic Violence and Family Law	January 2007 (Tampa Bay, FL) June 2007 (San Francisco), CA)	American Bar Asc. Nat'l Inst. of Trial Advocacy

In House Trainings

Policies and Procedures (Title 26)	September 20, 2007	Pierce Sup. Ct.
Domestic Violence	October 17, 2007	Pierce Sup. Ct.
Report Writing	November 15, 2007	Pierce Sup. Ct.
Motion Practices	December 20, 1007	Pierce Sup. Ct.
Family Law Round Table	February 21. 2008	Pierce Sup. Ct.

Additional Background Information

In 2000, I completed Guardian ad Litem/Parenting Investigator training for Titles 26 and 11 sponsored by the King County Bar Association. I have ten years of experience as a criminal law investigator (volunteered for two years with the King County Public Defender's Office) and prosecutor. I implemented the Stipulated Order of Continuance Program for domestic violence cases at Northeast District Court. In February 2001, I completed training with the CASA program (Court Appointed Special Advocate) in King County. I completed twenty-four hours of training with the Alternative Dispute Resolution Center in Seattle. In September 2005, I was a presenter at a GAL diversity training and have also been requested to serve as a mentor for new GAL's in Pierce County. In 2007, I was a faculty member for two national ABA and NIITA sponsored CLE's (GAL investigations and domestic violence). In 2007, I completed the requirements to practice Collaborative Law. Most recently, I completed an intensive four day mediation training sponsored by the University of Washington School of Law. Currently, I am an attorney in private practice. My undergraduate degrees are in Political Science, Psychology and Asian American Studies.

Training regarding the following:

Child development, child sexual abuse, and child physical abuse and neglect

I completed courses in child development for my Psychology Degree. I am very familiar with child physical abuse, child sexual abuse and neglect because

of my criminal investigative and prosecutorial background. I have also handled many GAL/PI cases where such matters were primary issues and have extensive experience working with psychologists and counselors who work with children in these areas.

Clinical and forensic investigative and interviewing techniques:

See above. Also, as a criminal investigator and attorney, I have interviewed and questioned many clinical and forensic specialists during case preparation and at trial for various types of crimes including homicide and rape.

Family reconciliation and mediation services:

See above. I also completed extensive training with the King County Dispute Resolution Center in King County. I am collaborative law trained and have completed a four day mediation training sponsored by the University of Washington School of Law.

Knowledge of relevant statutory and legal requirements to determine the best interest of the minor child in the context of a dissolution or parentage proceeding:

See above. Also, as an attorney I am accustomed to reading statutes.

Ethnic and cultural diversity and their implications for working with youth of color and their families in the context of a dissolution or parentage proceeding:

See above. In addition, I have participated in diversity training courses and have interacted with individuals with diverse backgrounds on both a professional and social level (especially in Seattle's Asian community.) I often worked with interpreters at trial. As an Asian American, I am very sensitive and aware of how ethnicity and cultural values impact interfamilial relationships. Lastly, I was requested to do a presentation for a Pierce County GAL cultural diversity training.

Legal Procedure

I am familiar with legal procedure and the court system due my background as an investigator and attorney.

NOTE: Only this application may be utilized. Late applications shall not be accepted for any reason. All questions must be answered in the order in which they are given. Answers that only refer to a resume or vitae are not acceptable although a resume is required and you may attach supporting materials. Please return completed application, resume and any materials by **March 20, 2009 4:30 PM.**

Pierce County Superior Court Administration
Room 534 County City Building
930 Tacoma Ave. South
Tacoma, WA 98402-2108

THIS PART OF THE APPLICATION IS PUBLIC INFORMATION

- A. Please report the first year you served on the RCW 26.09 Parenting Investigator/Guardian ad Litem Registry in Pierce County. Please list any years where there was a break in service:

2000, no breaks in service.

- B. Number of appointments you have received as a Parenting Investigator/Guardian ad Litem and all counties eligible for appointment during the last year, 1.1.08 to 12.31.08:

Approximately thirty-three

- C. Percentage of your total case load that RCW 26 Parenting Investigator/Guardian ad Litem work represents overall.

About eighty percent

- D. Criminal history, as defined in RCW 9,94A.030: A current and completed Washington State Patrol Conviction Criminal History Record must be received by the Court. If not attached, the expected date the Court will have the record: _____

I have no criminal history. A WSP conviction printout is attached to the application.

- E. Have you ever been accused of, found guilty of, or been a victim of either domestic violence or an anti-harassment action? If yes, please explain.

No

- F. The number of times you have been removed for failure to adequately perform duties as Parenting Investigator/Guardian ad Litem or for any other cause. For each removal, give a brief explanation, with the county, case name and cause number, and attach all relevant documents from the court file along with a copy of the court order.

I have never been removed from a case.

I also certify the following:

- G. I am presently not serving, nor have I recently applied to serve, as a Judge or Commissioner pro tempore in Pierce County Superior Court

Agree

- H. I have no criminal history or license suspension or revocation.

Agree

- I. I am not the subject of any pending investigation or action by a government agency, professional organization or one that would result in either a criminal conviction or a license revocation or suspension.

Agree

- J. I have read and understand the applicability to me and agree to be governed by the Pierce County Superior Court Administrative Policy #1 for the Title 26 PI/GAL Pierce County Certified Registry.

Agree

- K. I have read, signed, and returned, and understand the applicability to me of the Pierce County Superior Court Administrative Policy #2 Title Twenty 26 Parenting Investigator/Guardian ad Litem Code of Conduct and agree to be bound and governed by the Code of Conduct.

Agree

- L. I have completed in full, signed and attached the confidential supplement to this renewal application.

Agree

If you disagree for any answer (G-L) please explain in full:

Not Applicable

I certify that I have thoroughly studied the provision and requirements of Title 26 and Superior Court Guardian ad Litem Rules and believe I am fully qualified to be

appointed as a Parenting Investigator/Guardian ad Litem in Pierce County Washington.

S. Nakasuma
Signature

3-18-09
Date of Signing

Sheri Nakasuma
Print Name

Belfer WA
Place of Signing

Sheri Nakashima
PO Box 5675
Bellevue, WA 98006
425-466-2327

Education: University of Oregon School of Law
Doctorate of Jurisprudence, 1990

University of Washington
Bachelor of Arts Degrees in Political Science, Psychology, and
Asian American Studies, 1985

**Legal and
Investigative**

Experience: Attorney and Guardian ad Litem and Parenting Investigator
2000 to Present

- Attorney in private practice
- Collaborative Law trained
- GAL Mentor, Pierce County
- Completed forty-eight hours of intensive training to become a GAL and Parenting Investigator
- Training included investigative and interviewing techniques (especially of expert witnesses) and report writing for court purposes
- Additional training from King County CASA (2001) and the King County Dispute Resolution Center (2002)
- CLE courses in elder law, interviewing children and adults on child abuse cases, and advanced GAL training
- Presenter at a GAL diversity training (including domestic violence in Asian communities), September 2005.
- Presenter at a GAL/Family Law Bar training which focused on the working relationship between GAL's and attorneys, October 2006
- Presenter at a national ABA training focusing on domestic violence in family law litigation, January and June 2007.

Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, King County Prosecutor's Office
September 1990 to 1994

- Extensive trial experience in both District and Superior Court
- Implemented the Stipulated Order of Continuance Program (SOC) for domestic violence cases at Northeast District Court

- Vast experience in investigation of criminal cases
- Interviewed numerous witnesses, many of whom were hostile
- Experienced in interviewing clinical and forensic specialists
- Analyzed cases for legal sufficiency (for filing purposes)
- Appellate brief writing

Lane County Public Defender's Office (Eugene, OR)
August 1989 to 1990 (Defense Clinic)

- Represented indigent clients at hearings and at trial
- Investigated cases and interviewed witnesses

King County Prosecutor's Office (Juvenile Division)
May 1989 to August 1989 (Legal Internship)

- Daily trials and dispositions (responsible for a full caseload)
- Extensive interviewing of defense and state witnesses
- Screened and filed misdemeanor cases

United States Attorney's Office (Eugene, OR)
Law Clerk, May 1988 to 1989

- Legal Research
- Brief Writing
- Prosecuted misdemeanor crimes in Federal Court

Investigator, King County Public Defender's Office
Internship, 1985 to 1987

- Primarily investigated Class A and B felonies
- Interviewed defense and state witnesses
- Interviewed clinical and forensic witnesses for various crimes including homicide, assault, and rape
- Diagramed and photographed crime scenes
- Composed investigative reports
- Served subpoenas

POLICY 2

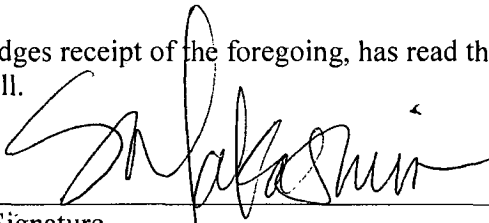
**PIERCE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
RCW 26.09.220 AND RCW 26.12.175
PARENTING INVESTIGATOR/GUARDIAN AD LITEM CODE OF CONDUCT**

All Parenting Investigator/Guardian ad Litem's shall fully comply with this Code of Conduct and the requirements of Superior Court GALR, effective 11/01:

1. The appointed Parenting Investigator/Guardian ad Litem shall decline the appointment if they are not qualified, competent, or able to complete the matter in a timely manner.
2. The Parenting Investigator/Guardian ad Litem shall maintain the ethical principles of their own profession in addition to compliance with this Code of Conduct.
3. The Parenting Investigator/Guardian ad Litem shall promptly advise the court of any grounds for disqualification or unavailability to serve.
4. The Parenting Investigator/Guardian ad Litem shall avoid self-dealing or association from which the Parenting Investigator/Guardian ad Litem might directly or indirectly benefit, other than from compensation as a Parenting Investigator/Guardian ad Litem.
5. The Parenting Investigator/Guardian ad Litem shall not guarantee or create the impression that any portion of the investigation will remain confidential, and shall inform all witnesses that the information gathered by the Parenting Investigator/Guardian ad Litem must be reported to the court.
6. All records, including contemporaneously maintained time and expense records, of the Parenting Investigator/Guardian ad Litem shall promptly be made available to the parties and their attorneys for review upon request, without formal discovery request(s) being made. Copies of the records may be made by the parties and their attorneys under circumstances that assure that the file remains complete, organized and intact.
7. The Parenting Investigator/Guardian ad Litem shall be available to testify if called by a party.
8. Once admitted to the RCW 26.09 Certified Registry, all Parenting Investigator/Guardian ad Litem's shall fully comply with all continuing education requirements established under Pierce County Local Rules and GALR, as amended.

The undersigned acknowledges receipt of the foregoing, has read the same and GALR, and agrees to be governed by all.

3/19/09
Date


Signature