CHAPTER 31

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE PROGRAM

§1501. Court Appointed Special Advocate Program

There is established within the Administrative Office of the Courts of the Judicial Department the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program to provide volunteer lay persons to serve as court appointed special advocates or guardians ad litem under Title 22, section 4005, subsection 1, in child abuse and neglect cases. [PL 1997, c. 393, Pt. C, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1985, c. 581, §1 (NEW). PL 1997, c. 393, §C1 (AMD).

§1502. Staff

With the advice and approval of the Court Appointed Special Advocate Advisory Panel, the State Court Administrator shall appoint a Director of the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program, who shall serve at the pleasure of the State Court Administrator. The State Court Administrator may also appoint one or more deputy directors or regional volunteer coordinators, who also shall serve at the pleasure of the State Court Administrator. The State Court Administrator shall provide necessary clerical assistance to the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program, within the limit of funds available. [PL 1997, c. 393, Pt. C, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1985, c. 581, §1 (NEW). PL 1997, c. 393, §C1 (AMD).

§1503. Court appointed special advocates

The Director of the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program shall recruit the services of qualified persons to serve as volunteer court appointed special advocates. The volunteer court appointed special advocates are considered employees of the State only for the purposes of the Maine Tort Claims Act and are not entitled to receive compensation, but are reimbursed for their actual, necessary and reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their duties, consistent with policies established by the Administrative Office of the Courts. [PL 2001, c. 253, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1985, c. 581, §1 (NEW). PL 2001, c. 253, §1 (AMD).

§1504. Facilities

The State Court Administrator shall provide a principal office for the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program and shall arrange for such facilities throughout the State as are necessary and adequate for the court appointed special advocates to conduct their duties. [PL 1997, c. 393, Pt. C, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1985, c. 581, §1 (NEW). PL 1997, c. 393, §C1 (AMD).

§1505. Court Appointed Special Advocate Advisory Panel

A Court Appointed Special Advocate Advisory Panel is appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court to set the policy for and monitor the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program. [PL 1991, c. 55 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1985, c. 581, §1 (NEW). PL 1991, c. 55 (AMD).

§1506. Immunity from civil liability

A person serving as a court appointed special advocate for the Judicial Department or as Director, deputy director or regional volunteer coordinator of the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program is immune from any civil liability, as are employees of governmental entities, under the Maine Tort Claims Act, Title 14, chapter 741, for acts performed within the scope of that person's administrative duties, and is entitled to quasi-judicial immunity for acts performed within the scope of the person's duties as a guardian ad litem. [PL 2001, c. 253, §2 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1985, c. 581, §1 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 617, §2 (AMD). PL 1997, c. 393, §C2 (AMD). PL 2001, c. 253, §2 (AMD).

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