

STANDING ORDER 1-05

Standards for Guardians ad Litem/Investigators

1. The Standards for Category F, Guardians ad Litem/Investigators in actions involving: Domestic Relations or Custody/Visitation/Adoption G.L. c. 215, § 56A; c. 208, § 16, (hereinafter “Standards”) are effective January 24, 2005.

2. The purpose of these Standards is to:

- provide accountability related to guardian ad litem/investigations;
- improve custody, visitation, and other outcomes for children;
- promote uniformity and consistency in guardian ad litem/investigations; and
- promote respect for the rights of parties and their children, including their safety.

3. It is ordered that all guardians ad litem/investigators appointed pursuant to G.L. c. 215, § 56A,

c. 208, § 16 utilize the Standards in conducting these investigations. Guardians ad litem/investigators who are certified by the Probate and Family Court Administrative Office to receive appointments under Supreme Judicial Court Rule 1:07, and those persons not on the list who are appointed in accordance with Section (4) of Rule 1:07, are governed by this Order and shall conduct their investigations in accordance with the Standards.