

HB 121 -- Appointment of a Guardian Ad Litem

Sponsor: Barnes

Currently, in any action for the administrative review of the determination whether to retain certain identifying information relating to reports of abuse or neglect received by the Children's Division of the Department of Social Services, the appointment of a guardian ad litem is mandatory. This bill makes the appointment of a guardian ad litem discretionary.

Currently, upon the entry of an ex parte order of protection in a domestic relations proceeding, the court must appoint a guardian ad litem or court-appointed special advocate to represent the child victim. The bill makes the appointment discretionary if the allegation is stalking.