

# What to Expect from Your Lawyer & the Guardian ad Litem Attorney:

Both work to protect you, but you need to know the differences.

## Your Lawyer (Attorney ad Litem)

Must discuss all important issues with you.

Yes

**MUST MEET YOU AND LISTEN TO YOU.**



Cannot share what you say unless you give permission.

Yes

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
**CANNOT TELL OTHERS WHAT YOU SAY.**

Must explain your case and all your legal options.

Yes

**MUST EXPLAIN THE LAW TO YOU AND GIVE YOU LEGAL ADVICE.**



And, cannot tell the judge if they disagree with you.

Yes

**MUST LET THE COURT KNOW WHAT YOU WANT.**



After conferring with you and offering you legal advice & counsel.

Yes

**MUST ADVOCATE FOR WHAT YOU WANT.**



Can be sued if they make a mistake that causes you harm.

Yes

**ACCOUNTABLE IF THEY MAKE MISTAKES.**



No

Is not required to meet all kids. Staff or volunteers may meet instead.

No

They are required to tell the judge and others what you say.

No

May explain your case but can withhold information.

Yes

Yes

But, can also tell the judge if they disagree with you

No

Must advocate for what the GAL thinks is best for you.

No

Cannot be sued if they make a mistake that causes you harm.

# Foster Fairness

Children Need a Lawyer

For more information contact: [FosterFairnessFlorida@gmail.com](mailto:FosterFairnessFlorida@gmail.com)