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STATE OF WISCONSIN

**FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

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**Date:** November 10, 2021

**To:** Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

**From:** Chief Judge Mary E. Triggiano  
John Barrett, Milwaukee County Clerk of Circuit Court

**RE:** Guardian ad Litem Services in Milwaukee County Family and Children's Division

**Request**

The Chief Judge and the Clerk of Circuit Court request authorization to enter into a five-year contract with Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee (LAS), a non-profit organization, for \$13,960,740 over the next five-year period with the potential for an addition five-year extension:

Year	Amount	Number of Cases	Per Case Rate
2022	\$ 2,515,743	3,100	\$811.53
2023	\$ 2,674,803	3,200	\$835.88
2024	\$ 2,781,791	3,200	\$869.31
2025	\$ 2,921,152	3,200	\$912.86
2026	\$ 3,067,251	3,200	\$958.52

Each year has a set number of cases that LAS will take. If LAS takes additional cases over that set amount, the County will pay the *per case rate* above the contracted case number and amount. This contract allows attorneys from LAS to represent the best interest of children in Family and Children's Division Court cases, as appointed by the Courts.

**Background**

On July 19, 2021 the County issued a Request for Proposal for Guardian ad Litem Services for the Children's Division and Family Division Court cases; RFP #98210021. On September 7, 2021, Milwaukee County received one application for GAL services for the period of 2022-2026 with a potential five-year extension. A committee was established to review any proposals received in response to the RFP and LAS was selected as the agency to be awarded the contract.

**Fiscal Impact**

The cost of the Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee's (LAS) contract for court appointed guardian ad litem services for the Family and Children's Court Divisions for the next five years is \$13,960,740. In 2022 the contract amount is \$2,515,743 for 3100 cases; sufficient funds have been requested in the 2022 Requested Budget. There is no fiscal impact by entering into this contract for 2022 beyond the recommended budgeted expenditures and revenues. However, if LAS takes additional cases over that set amount, the County will pay above the contracted case number of 3100 at a rate of \$811.53 per case. The 2023 through 2026 contract funds will be reflected in the budget request for those corresponding years. The caseload will increase to 3200 for subsequent years beginning in 2023. As an informational notation, Milwaukee County currently receives \$1.3 million from the State for guardian ad litem services. This revenue is appropriated to all GAL services, thus not limited to Legal Aid Society services only. The revenue is reflected in the 2022 Requested Budget.

Prepared by:

Report: Liz Finn Gorski, Judicial Operations Manager (Children's Division)

Fiscal: Donya Saffold, Senior Financial Manager, Clerk of Circuit Courts

Approved by:

*Mary Triggiano*

Hon. Mary E. Triggiano  
Chief Judge First Judicial District

*John Barrett*

John Barrett  
Clerk of Circuit Courts

cc: Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
Anthony Staskunas, Chairperson Judiciary, Safety and General Services  
Jason Haas, Chairperson Finance and Audit