

By the Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; and
Senator Joyner

586-05898-08

20081582c1

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to guardians ad litem; amending s. 61.402,
3 F.S.; authorizing a person affiliated with a not-for-
4 profit legal aid organization to serve as a guardian ad
5 litem under certain circumstances; requiring that such
6 person undergo a security background investigation;
7 providing an effective date.

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9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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11 Section 1. Section 61.402, Florida Statutes, is amended to
12 read:

13 61.402 Qualifications of guardians ad litem.--A guardian ad
14 litem must be ~~either a person citizen~~ certified by the Guardian
15 Ad Litem Program to act in family law cases, a person certified
16 by a not-for-profit legal aid organization as defined in s.
17 68.096 if there are no allegations of child abuse, neglect, or
18 abandonment, or an attorney who is a member in good standing of
19 The Florida Bar. Prior to certifying a guardian ad litem to be
20 appointed under this chapter, the Guardian Ad Litem Program or
21 the legal aid organization, as appropriate, must conduct a
22 security background investigation as provided in s. 39.821.

23 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.