

PRACTICE STANDARD 5-A

VISITOR

COMMENT

The Visitor is an independent investigator who is expected to reach his or her own conclusions regarding the subject's circumstances. The court will, on occasion, appoint a Visitor to conduct a special investigation into specific issues raised by the petition.

STANDARD 5-A.1 The Visitor shall thoroughly investigate the current circumstances of the subject of the intervention proceeding and respond specifically to any issues raised in the petition or as requested by the Court in the order of appointment.

Authority: D.C. Code § 21-2033(c) and SCR-PD 327(b)

PRACTICE SUGGESTIONS:

- Interview the subject of the proceeding, the petitioner, any person nominated by the petitioner to serve as Guardian or Conservator, and such other persons as the Visitor deems appropriate.
- Communicate with the subject in a manner that will allow the subject, to the extent possible, to understand the nature of the proceedings and the Visitor's role in these proceedings.
- Visit the present place of abode of the subject and any place proposed as a subsequent residence for the subject.
- Meet with appropriate persons to determine potential or existing conflicts of interest that would preclude the appointment of any person nominated by any party to serve as Guardian or Conservator.
- Nominate a person to serve as Guardian or Conservator if the petitioner or other parties have not named a nominee.
- File a written report at least 10 days prior to the intervention hearing and mail a copy to all persons listed on the order of appointment.
- Attend the intervention hearing and be prepared to testify unless excused by the Court.

- Maintain complete records of any services provided and record time spent using tenths of an hour.
- Prepare a fee petition upon completion of services and state the basis for the rate of compensation requested. File the fee petition either by mail or in person and send a copy to all interested persons and persons granted permission to participate, including any person listed in the Court's findings of fact, conclusions of law, and order.

Note: A Visitor's appointment terminates upon disposition of the matter unless otherwise directed by the Court.