Job Posting: Guardian ad Litem/Juvenile Defender
Marion and Walthall Counties, Mississippi – Youth Court
Position Title: Guardian ad Litem (GAL)
Department: Chancery Court Youth Court Division
Reports To: Marion and Walthall County Board of Supervisors
Employment Type: Contract
Compensation: Determined by Marion and Walthall Counties
Application Deadline: November 18, 2026
Start Date: January 1, 2027

Position Summary

The Guardian ad Litem is appointed under the Mississippi Youth Court Act to protect the best interests of children in abuse, neglect, delinquency, and related proceedings. The GAL acts as an arm of the court (not an adversary party), independently investigates, makes recommendations or reports to the court, and holds the child's best interest paramount. The Juvenile Defender provides legal representation to juveniles in Youth Court in delinquency and child in need of supervision matters.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

- Protect the interest of the child for whom appointed.
- Investigate the matter, review relevant documents, and interview parties and witnesses as authorized by court order.
- Make recommendations to the court and enter reports as necessary.
- Attend all court hearings, conferences, and family team meetings.
- Meet with the child prior to court hearings.
- Comply with all reporting requirements and other duties required by law or court order.
- Perform all other duties required by Miss. Code Ann. § 43-21-121 and applicable court practice.
- Be cross trained as a parent representative to assist the Court in conflict matters.

Qualifications

- Licensed practicing attorney in good standing in the State of Mississippi.
- Completion of child protection and juvenile justice training provided by or approved by the Mississippi Judicial College within the year immediately preceding appointment (Miss. Code Ann. § 43-21-121(4)). Applicants must provide proof of completion or eligibility confirmation with a commitment to complete required training before the start date.
- Ability to serve both Marion and Walthall Counties on a full-time basis.
- Youth Court experience preferred.

How to Apply

Submit the following:

- Cover letter / letter of interest
- Resume / curriculum vitae
- Mississippi Bar number

Submit via email to:

Mr. Andrew Foxworth
Mr. Conrad Mord
Attorneys for the Boards of Supervisors for Marion and Walthall Counties.
Via: lstringer@marioncountyms.gov

Limitations and Disclaimer

Marion and Walthall Counties are equal opportunity employers. This job description describes the general nature and level of work. It is not an exhaustive list of all responsibilities, duties, or skills. Requirements may be modified to reasonably accommodate individuals with disabilities. Continued employment is on an at-will basis. Applicants should verify current training requirements with the Mississippi Judicial College and Administrative Office of Courts.