

**UPDATED CONTACT INFORMATION FOR PIERCE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
TITLE 26 PARENTING INVESTIGATOR/GUARDIAN AD LITEM
CERTIFIED REGISTRY**

This Updated Contact Information Sheet is required annually for Guardians ad Litem currently serving on the Pierce County Superior Court RCW Title 26 Parenting Investigator/Guardian ad Litem Certified Registry.
Completion of the full Renewal Application form is required every three years.

THIS IS PUBLIC INFORMATION

This is my current Updated Contact Information to serve as a Parenting Investigator/Guardian ad Litem in Pierce County, State of Washington, as required under RCW Title 26. I hereby certify under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that my renewal application on file is true and correct.

Signed at: Olympia (City), Washington on 3/23/2018

Signature: Sunset Brinton

Complete all information below and check each box where contact information has changed since last year's application was submitted.

- Printed Name: Sunset Sierra Brinton
- Business Address: 302 East Yelm Avenue
- City: Yelm State: WA Zip Code: 98597
- E-Mail Address: Sunset@brintonlawoffice.com
- Business Telephone Number: (360) 846-2129 FAX: _____

Please state the total number of hours/credits of training you received this year. (List HOURS/CREDITS, Date, Sponsor and Topic). Attachments may be made to show this, however you must state the total number of HOURS/CREDITS you received between last application (or 3/20 of last year) and this application.

3 1/2 Hours September 19, 2017 Pierce County Title 26 GAL Training Autism/Same sex parenting considerations

1 Hour February 15, 2018 Pierce County GAL Inservice ACES

1 Hour January 18, 2018 Pierce County GAL Inservice Trauma

Please Continue to Next Page

My Renewal Application was last submitted on n/a
(Completion of the Application form is required every three years.)

Number of appointments you have received as a Parenting Investigator/Guardian ad Litem and all counties eligible for appointment during the last application/Certified Registry year (March 17, 2017 to Present):

Appointments in Pierce County: 1
Appointments in _____ County: _____
Appointments in _____ County: _____

Criminal history, as defined in RCW 9.94A.030: A current (dated on or after January 1, 2018) and completed Washington State Patrol Conviction Criminal History Record must be received by the Court.

As an attorney, I would like to serve on the registry as a paternity guardian ad litem.

Agree Disagree

I certify that I have thoroughly studied the provisions and requirements of Title 26 and Superior Court Guardian ad Litem Rules and believe I am fully qualified to be appointed as a Parenting Investigator/ Guardian ad Litem in Pierce County, Washington. Additionally, I hereby certify under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that my renewal application on file is true and correct.

Sunset Brinton
Signature

March 23, 2018
Date of signing

Sunset S. Brinton
Print Name

Olympia, WA
Place of signing

Please return completed Updated Contact Information Sheet, Code of Conduct, and Washington State Patrol Request for Conviction Criminal History (WATCH Report) by **March 16, 2018 4:30 PM** to:

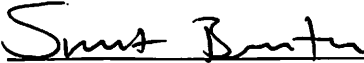
Pierce County Superior Court Administrator
Room 334, County City Building
930 Tacoma Ave South
Tacoma, WA 98402-2108

Policy 2: Pierce County Superior Court RCW 26.09.220 and RCW 26.12.175 Guardian Ad Litem Code of Conduct

All Guardians ad Litem shall fully comply with this Code of Conduct and the requirements of Superior Court GALR.

1. The appointed Guardian ad Litem shall decline the appointment if he/she is not qualified, competent, or able to complete the matter in a timely manner.
2. The Guardian ad Litem shall maintain the ethical principles of his/her own profession in addition to compliance with this Code of Conduct.
3. The Guardian ad Litem shall promptly advise the court of any grounds for disqualification or unavailability to serve.
4. The Guardian ad Litem shall avoid self-dealing or association from which the Guardian ad Litem might directly or indirectly benefit, other than from compensation as a Guardian ad Litem.
5. The Guardian ad Litem shall not guarantee or create the impression that any portion of the investigation will remain confidential, and shall inform all witnesses that the information gathered by the Guardian ad Litem must be reported to the court.
6. All records, including contemporaneously maintained time and expense records, and excluding information that is confidential by law or sealed by court and as further defined by Superior Court Policy, of the Guardian ad Litem shall be made available to the parties and their attorneys for review upon request, without formal discovery request(s) being made. Copies of the records may be made by the parties and their attorneys under circumstances that assure that the file remains complete, organized and intact.
7. The Guardian ad Litem shall be available to testify if called by a party. Reasonable notice is required and funds deposited in the registry for preparation and time at trial.
8. Once admitted to the **RCW 26.09** Certified Registry, all Guardians ad Litem shall fully comply with all continuing education requirements established by Pierce County and GALR.
9. The Guardian ad Litem shall report to D.S.H.S. and the court, any child abuse as defined in **RCW 26.44.030, RCW 26.12.175** and **RCW 26.12.177**.
10. The undersigned acknowledges receipt of the foregoing, has read the same and GALR, and agrees to be governed by all.

3/23/2018
Date


Signature

[Amended effective June 6, 2016]

Contact Information Update
February 20, 2018

Sunset Sierra Brinton
302 E Yelm Ave
Yelm, WA 98597-7713
360-846-2129

sunset@brintonlawoffice.com

**APPLICATION FOR PIERCE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
TITLE 26 PARENTING INVESTIGATOR/GUARDIAN AD LITEM
CERTIFIED REGISTRY**

2017 MAR 16 PM 3:53

This application is for Parenting Investigator/Guardians ad Litem who are not currently serving on the Pierce County Superior Court Title 26 Certified Registry.

THIS IS PUBLIC INFORMATION

This is my application to serve as a Parenting Investigator/Guardian ad Litem in Pierce County, State of Washington as required under RCW Title 26. I hereby certify under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that my application is true and correct.

Signed at: Lakewood (City), Washington on 03/01/2017

Signature: Sunset Brinton

WSBA # and Year admitted to practice law: WSBA #41400, admitted 2009

If a current or inactive member of another state's bar association, please indicate bar association number and year admitted, and if applicable, year you became inactive: N/A

Printed Name: Sunset S. Brinton

Business Address: 11120 Gravelly Lake Drive SW, Suite 6A

City: Lakewood State: WA Zip Code: 98499

Business Telephone Number: (253) 720-5221 FAX: _____

E-Mail Address: Sunset@BrintonLawOffice.com

Bilingual: Yes No If so, in what language(s): _____

Please indicate the county, date and location where you are enrolled for the mandatory training (only approved training qualifies) if not completed by the application closing date, **March 17, 2017**:

Training Sponsored by: (Name) King County Bar Association

(Address) 1200 Fifth Avenue, Suite 700 Seattle, WA

(County) King (Dates) February 15, 16, 17, 2017

(Phone) (206) 267-7100

NOTE: Only this application may be utilized. Late applications shall not be accepted for any reason. All questions must be answered in the order in which they are given. Answers that only refer to a resume or vitae are not acceptable although a resume is required and you may attach supporting materials. Please return completed application, resume and any materials by **March 17, 2017 4:30 PM to:**

Pierce County Superior Court Administrator
Room 334, County City Building
930 Tacoma Ave South
Tacoma, WA 98402-2108

THIS PART OF THE APPLICATION IS PUBLIC INFORMATION

A. Level of formal education, indicating university issuing the degrees and years obtained:

A.A.S. Community College of the Air Force, 2002
B.T. Peru State College, 2003
A.S. Defense Language Institute, 2005
J.D. Gonzaga University School of Law, 2008

B. Please list all trainings you have attended, the sponsor, month/year attended and the materials covered in each training that relate to Title 26 Parenting Investigator/Guardian ad Litem statutory duties. Attach all Certificates of Attendance/Completion.

Guardian Ad Litem Initial Certification Training/King Co. Bar Association/Feb, 2017
Children's Justice Conference/King Co. Sexual Assault Resource Center/May, 2014
Children's Justice Conference, 2010

C. Number of years experience as a Guardian ad Litem under RCW 26.09.220 and/or RCW 26.12.175 in other counties, if any:

1. Please list all counties and each year you were appointed in each county to serve on a RCW 26.09.220 and/or RCW 26.12.175 Certified Registry. For each county, please indicate all dates for any break in service.

For example:

7/1/2005 – Present, Thurston County, first served May, 2006

7/1/2000 – 7/1/2001, King County, never served

D. Number of appointments you have received as a Parenting Investigator/Guardian ad Litem and all counties eligible for appointment during the last Certified Registry year:

Appointments in Pierce County: _____

Appointments in _____ **County:** _____

Appointments in _____ **County:** _____

E. Percentage of your total case load in other counties that RCW 26 Parenting Investigator/Guardian ad Litem work represents overall: N/A

F. Criminal history, as defined in RCW 9.94A.030: A current (dated on or after January 1, 2017) and completed Washington State Patrol Conviction Criminal History Record must be received by the Court. If not attached, the expected date the Court will have the record: _____

G. Have you been named as a defendant or respondent in any case involving allegations of domestic violence or anti-harassment?
Yes No

If yes, state the date, name of the court, court cause number, summary of the allegations, and the disposition of the case.

H. Have you been named as a petitioner or witness in any civil or criminal proceedings involving domestic violence or anti-harassment?
Yes No

If yes, state the date, name of the court, court cause number, summary of the allegations, and the disposition of the case.

I. Evidence of your knowledge, training, and experience, in the following areas, pursuant to RCW 26.09.220 and /or RCW 26.12.175. You must complete **in full**, the information requested below, in the space provided, in addition to attaching the required resume or vitae. However, answers that only refer to a resume or vitae are **not** acceptable.

- 1) Child development, child sexual abuse, and child physical abuse and neglect:

In my 7+ years experience handling dependency and termination of parental rights matters I have litigated numerous cases involving issues of child development and abuse and neglect. I have attended several trainings on these issues, both as a defense attorney and as an Assistant Attorney General.

2) Clinical and forensic investigative and interviewing techniques:

I have interviewed parents, youth, social workers, law enforcement officers, medical professionals, and others in the course of litigating dependency cases. Also, GAL training included interviewing.

3) Family reconciliation and mediation services:

My dependency experience includes experience with family reconciliation services. Also, I attended an "Introduction to Mediation" seminar sponsored by the Dispute Resolution Center of Yakima in 2012.

4) Knowledge of relevant statutory and legal requirements to determine the best interest of the minor child in the context of a dissolution or parentage proceeding:

Initial GAL certification training covered statutory and legal requirements of dissolution and parentage proceedings. Dependency cases involve determinations of the best interest of the children.

5) A general understanding of ethnic and cultural diversity and their implications for working with youth of color and their families in the context of a dissolution or parentage proceeding:

Initial GAL certification training included a section on cultural competency. I have attended a number of seminars on ethnic and cultural diversity, and have experience representing diverse clients.

6) Legal procedures:

I have been licensed to practice law since 2009. I have litigation experience in Yakima, Benton, Franklin, Grant, Kittitas, and Pierce Counties. I am familiar with the rules of civil procedure.

J. The number of times you have been removed for failure to adequately perform your duties as Parenting Investigator/Guardian ad Litem or for any other cause. For each removal, give a brief explanation with the county, case name and cause number, and attach all relevant documents from the court file along with a copy of the court order of removal.

N/A

I also certify the following:

K. I will successfully complete the mandatory training required by the Pierce County Superior Court (only approved training qualifies) and under the laws of the State of Washington and immediately submit my Certificate of Attendance.

AGREE DISAGREE

L. My normal hourly rate is \$ \$ 250.00. My hourly rate to serve as Parenting Investigator/ Guardian ad Litem by stipulation and agreement is \$ \$ 125.00.

On rotational draw cases, my hourly rate is \$75.00 per hour. Retainer and any additional fees are **only** allowed by order of the Court which shall be obtained **in advance** of incurring fees, or county pay if a paternity case.

AGREE DISAGREE

M. I am presently not serving, nor have I recently applied to serve, as a Judge or Commissioner pro tempore in Pierce County Superior Court. I understand that I am not permitted to serve in both capacities.

AGREE DISAGREE

N. I have no criminal history or license suspension or revocation.

AGREE DISAGREE

O. I am not the subject of any pending investigation or action by a government agency, professional organization or one that would result in either a criminal conviction or a license revocation or suspension.

AGREE DISAGREE

P. I will not accept any appointment involving a conflict of interest, and in the event I discover a conflict in the course of an appointment/investigation, I will immediately advise the parties, counsel, and court.

AGREE DISAGREE

Q. I have read and understand the applicability to me and agree to be bound and governed by the Pierce County Superior Court Administrative Policy #1 for the Title 26 Parenting Investigator/Guardians ad Litem Certified Registry.

AGREE DISAGREE

R. I have read, signed, returned, and understand the applicability to me of the Pierce County Superior Court Administrative Policy #2 Title 26 Parenting Investigator/Guardian ad Litem Code of Conduct and agree to be bound and governed by the Code of Conduct.

AGREE DISAGREE

S. I have completed in full, signed and attached the confidential supplement to this application.

AGREE DISAGREE

If you disagree for any answer above (K-S), please explain in full on the addendum page and attach it to your application materials.

T. Please provide full disclosure of the following:
(If you need more space continue on the Addendum page.)

1) Any felony convictions or any convictions involving theft, dishonesty, or moral turpitude.

N/A

2) Suspension or revocation of professional certification or license.

N/A

3) Pending investigation of action for either 1 or 2 above.

N/A

U. Have you ever posted or filed anything to any social media network pages (e.g. facebook), blogs, e-mail or declarations or other material in court or administrative proceedings that would raise a question whether you are a person who respects and complies with the law and who will at all times act in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary? If yes, please provide details on Addendum Page.

Yes

No

I certify that I have thoroughly studied the provisions and requirements of Title 26 and believe I am fully qualified to be appointed as a Parenting Investigator/Guardian ad Litem in Pierce County, Washington.

Sunset S. Brinton

Signature

03/01/2017

Date of signing

Sunset S. Brinton

Print Name

Lakewood, WA

Place of signing

Please continue to next page.

POLICY 2

**PIERCE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
RCW 26.09.220 AND RCW 26.12.175
PARENTING INVESTIGATOR/GUARDIAN AD LITEM CODE OF CONDUCT**

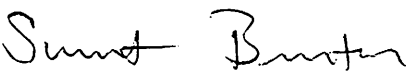
All Parenting Investigator/Guardian ad Litem's shall fully comply with this Code of Conduct and the requirements of Superior Court GALR, effective 11/01:

1. The appointed Parenting Investigator/Guardian ad Litem shall decline the appointment if they are not qualified, competent, or able to complete the matter in a timely manner.
2. The Parenting Investigator/Guardian ad Litem shall maintain the ethical principles of their own profession in addition to compliance with this Code of Conduct.
3. The Parenting Investigator/Guardian ad Litem shall promptly advise the court of any grounds for disqualification or unavailability to serve.
4. The Parenting Investigator/Guardian ad Litem shall avoid self-dealing or association from which the Parenting Investigator/Guardian ad Litem might directly or indirectly benefit, other than from compensation as a Parenting Investigator/Guardian ad Litem.
5. The Parenting Investigator/Guardian ad Litem shall not guarantee or create the impression that any portion of the investigation will remain confidential, and shall inform all witnesses that the information gathered by the Parenting Investigator/Guardian ad Litem must be reported to the court.
6. All records, including contemporaneously maintained time and expense records, of the Parenting Investigator/Guardian ad Litem shall promptly be made available to the parties and their attorneys for review upon request, without formal discovery request(s) being made. Copies of the records may be made by the parties and their attorneys under circumstances that assure that the file remains complete, organized and intact.
7. The Parenting Investigator/Guardian ad Litem shall be available to testify if called by a party.
8. Once admitted to the RCW 26.09 Certified Registry, all Parenting Investigator/Guardian ad Litem's shall fully comply with all continuing education requirements established under Pierce County Local Rules and GALR, as amended.

The undersigned acknowledges receipt of the foregoing, has read the same and GALR, and agrees to be governed by all.

03/01/2017

Date


Signature

(Adopted 5/4/98; amended 5/6/02)

Certificate of Completion

Sunset Sierra Brinton

**2017 Title 26 Family Law
Guardian ad Litem Initial Certification Training**

February 15, 16, 17, 2017

This educational program meets the requirements for initial training made effective
January 1, 2007 by the Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts
under RCW 2.56.030(15) for Title 26 Family Law Guardians ad Litem.

21.00 CLE Credits Approved: 20.00 Law & Legal and 1.00 Ethics (Approval #103 1852)



Denise Medlock, CLE Senior Manager
King County Bar Association

Sunset S. Brinton

11120 Gravelly Lake Drive Southwest, Suite 6A
(253)720-5221
Sunset@Brintonlawoffice.com

Profile Self-motivated, dependable attorney with a demonstrated commitment to public service and experience with cases involving the welfare of children. Proven ability to work with diverse clients and collaborate with other professionals. Licensed to practice law since 2009.

Legal Experience **Law Office of Sunset Sierra Brinton, PLLC**
Managing Attorney, July, 2016 – present
Practice focused on family law matters. Serve on Pierce County Department of Assigned Counsel Panel handling dependency matters. Manage all aspects of operating a solo law practice.

Office of the Attorney General

Assistant Attorney General, Transportation and Public Construction Division (Olympia),
July 2015 – June, 2016

Took a lead role in the active defense of litigation of combined claims of inverse condemnation and tort against the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), involving river management, culvert capacity, and property damage and valuation issues. Sought, retained, and prepared experts. Framed answers, interrogatories, requests for admission, and requests for production. Defended depositions of key WSDOT personnel. Displayed balanced thinking, analysis, and perspective. Prioritized and performed multiple tasks. Built constructive working relationships with co-counsel, opposing counsel, professional staff, and client agency personnel.

Office of the Attorney General

Assistant Attorney General, Regional Services Division (Yakima), July 2013 – July 2015
Provided legal representation to state agencies, including the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), Department of Licensing (DOL), and Employment Security Department (ESD). Effectively, professionally, and ethically managed a heavy litigation caseload of matters involving the abuse and neglect of children. Prepared and argued shelter care hearings, dependency fact finding hearings, various motion hearings, and termination trials. Acquired and applied knowledge of complex medical terminology, conditions and treatment to effectively present matters for hearing, including a contested fact finding hearing involving an infant with multiple complex injuries. Collected and reviewed material evidence, including medical records and law enforcement records. Advised DSHS personnel on their legal options prior to, during, and following various hearings. Prepared and presented the testimony of clients and various professionals, including physicians, therapists, and law enforcement officers. Volunteered to present training to the client agency on trial preparation and professionalism. Handled several administrative matters before the Office of Administrative Hearings, including foster care license revocations and denials of applications for foster care licenses. Handled appeals of DOL and ESD matters before the Superior Courts of Yakima and Kittitas Counties.

WA State Office of Public Defense, Parent's Representation Program

Contract Attorney, July 2012 – July 2013

Managed all aspects of operating a small law practice and contract with Washington State's Office of Public Defense, including clerical work, collecting information, preparing reports, and maintaining data. Practice dedicated to providing effective representation to indigent parents in dependency and termination of parental rights cases in Benton and Franklin Counties. Advocated for clients at informal meetings and formal case conferences. Advised clients on their legal options at all stages of the proceedings, and negotiated settlement of disputed issues. Effectively handled a contested matter involving allegations of abusive head trauma, which involved complex medical issues, and preparing and presenting multiple days of medical testimony.

Law Office of Sonia M. Rodriguez True, P.S.

Associate Attorney, July 2009 – July 2012

Practice dedicated to providing effective representation to indigent parents involved in dependency and termination of parental rights proceedings. Interviewed and counseled clients, prepared witnesses, and negotiated case settlements. Prepared and argued shelter care hearings, review and permanency planning hearings, and termination trials. Conducted legal research. Prepared, filed, and argued various motions. Advocated for clients at DSHS meetings and case conferences. Involved in Family Treatment Court.

Beck & Poorman, LLC

Law Clerk, 2007-2008

Researched legal issues in areas of sexual harassment, personal injury, labor law, and land use. Drafted memoranda and client correspondence. Assisted with hearing preparation, depositions, client interviews, and various administrative duties.

University Legal Assistance, Low Income Taxpayer Clinic

Legal Intern, 2007

Represented clients in disputes with the IRS. Conducted client interviews, drafted correspondence, and managed case files. Researched tax law issues, drafted memoranda, investigated facts relevant to tax issues, compiled and submitted offers in compromise. Prepared tax returns as needed.

**Military
Experience**

United States Air Force

Airborne Cryptologic Linguist (Spanish), 1998 – 2004

Deployed regularly in support of Counter-Drug and Search and Rescue Operations. Operated and managed the operation of communications equipment. Trained new personnel and developed improved training plans. Supervised mission activities and performed aircrew duties. Promoted ahead of peers; recognized for excellent leadership, technical, and language skills.

**Military
Awards**

Air Force Commendation Medal; Joint Service Achievement Medal; Aerial Achievement Medal; Combat Readiness Medal; Diploma with Honors, Defense Language Institute (Spanish)

Education

Gonzaga University School of Law

J.D., May 2008

Linden Cup Moot Court Competition; Armed Forces Law Caucus, Secretary; Merit Scholarship Recipient; ABA Client Counseling Competition; Mission Possible; Women's Law Caucus

Peru State College

B.T. in Technology Management, May 2003

Earned degree while on active duty; GPA: 4.0

**Volunteer
Experience**

Tacoma-Pierce County Bar Association Volunteer Legal Services Program

WSBA Day of Service

WSBA Home Foreclosure Legal Aid Project

Pegasus Project Therapeutic Horseback Riding

Nisqually Chapter, Back Country Horsemen of Washington