

HB 548 - AS INTRODUCED

2021 SESSION

21-0742

05/04

HOUSE BILL

**548**

AN ACT                    relative to the role of a guardian ad litem in cases where domestic violence is suspected or alleged.

SPONSORS:            Rep. Gay, Rock. 8; Rep. Read, Rock. 17; Rep. Gould, Hills. 7; Rep. Elliott, Rock. 8; Rep. Prudhomme-O'Brien, Rock. 6; Rep. Pitre, Straf. 2; Rep. Ulery, Hills. 37; Rep. Cali-Pitts, Rock. 30; Rep. Altschiller, Rock. 19; Sen. Bradley, Dist 3

COMMITTEE:        Children and Family Law

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ANALYSIS

This bill provides that if domestic violence is suspected or alleged in a parenting case, the guardian ad litem (GAL) shall refer the victim to a local crisis center or domestic violence counselor. The bill also directs the GAL to determine whether law enforcement completed a lethality assessment protocol.

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Explanation:        Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.  
                         Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough]~~  
                         Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty One*

AN ACT                      relative to the role of a guardian ad litem in cases where domestic violence is suspected or alleged.

*Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:*

1            1    New Paragraph; Parental Rights and Responsibilities; Guardians Ad Litem; Domestic  
2    Violence Screening. Amend RSA 461-A:16 by inserting after paragraph II the following new  
3    paragraph:

4            II-a. When a guardian ad litem is appointed to a parenting case in which domestic violence  
5    is suspected or alleged, the guardian ad litem shall promptly refer the relevant party to a local crisis  
6    center or assessment by a domestic violence counselor as defined in RSA 173-C:1 III and, in  
7    appropriate cases, comply with mandatory reporting requirements for child abuse under RSA 169-  
8    C:29. The guardian ad litem shall also determine whether law enforcement completed a lethality  
9    assessment protocol regarding any party to the proceeding.

10          2    Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.