

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER  
NO. 2001-15

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE  
NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR  
ORANGE AND OSCEOLA COUNTIES,  
FLORIDA

**ORDER FOR LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF THE ORANGE COUNTY BAR  
ASSOCIATION TO ACCESS JUVENILE COURT FILES**

**WHEREAS**, the Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar Association has administered the Guardian ad Litem Program in Orange County for the past 30 years. The Program has provided Guardian ad Litem (hereafter referred to as “GAL”) for thousands of children that have been abused, abandoned or neglected in Orange County. GALs have a special role in court proceedings to protect the best interests of the children; and

**WHEREAS**, section 39.0132(3), Florida Statutes (2000), states that “the court may permit authorized representatives of recognized organizations compiling statistics for proper purposes to inspect and make abstracts from official records, under whatever conditions upon their use and disposition the court may deem proper, and may punish by contempt proceedings any violation of those conditions”; and

**WHEREAS**, the Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar Association, submitted a proposal and was granted a fellowship by the National Association of Public Interest Lawyers (hereinafter referred to as “NAPIL”) to study the Guardian ad Litem Program in Orange County and the state of Florida. The fellowship entails examining the criteria the Courts and the individual GAL Programs in Florida use to assign guardians, determining if in the face of severely limited resources those children who receive a GAL possess the greatest need, and developing and proposing alternative methods that will identify the types of cases where