

Representation of Children in Court

STATE	ISSUE	STATUTE(S)	TITLE OF APPOINTED	MANDATORY?
Alabama	In general	Ala. Code §12-15-8(a)	GAL	discretionary
	Dependency, Abuse/Neglect	Ala. Code §26-14-11	GAL (must be atty.)	mandatory
	Dependency, multiple needs children	Ala. Code §12-15-71(h)(4)	GAL	discretionary
	Involuntary commitment	Ala. Code §12-15-90(d)(2)	Atty. or GAL	mandatory
	Legitimation	Ala. Code §26-11-2(b)	GAL	mandatory if mother objects, otherwise discretionary
	Paternity	Ala. Code §26-17-17(b)	GAL	mandatory if not represented by counsel
Alaska	Adoption	AS 25.23.125(b)	Atty. &/or GAL	discretionary
	Child Protection (Abuse/Neglect)	AS 47.17.030(e)	GAL	mandatory
	Custody	AS 47.10.010(b)	Atty.	discretionary
	Divorce/Dissolution	AS 25.24.310	Atty. &/or GAL	discretionary
Arizona	Abuse/Neglect	ARS §8-221(I)	GAL	mandatory
	Divorce/Dissolution	ARS §25-321	Atty.	discretionary
	Institutionalization	ARS §8-221(C)	Atty.	mandatory unless waived
Arkansas	Dependency	ACA §§ 9-27-316(f)* 9-27-316(g)**	*Attorney ad litem – best interest **CASA	*mandatory **discretionary
	Divorce/Dissolution	ACA §9-13-101(d)	Attorney ad litem – best interest	discretionary
	Probate	ACA §9-13-106(b)	Attorney ad litem	discretionary
California	Custody	West’s Ann. Cal. Fam. Code §3150	Attorney (best interests)	discretionary
	Minors, in general	West’s Ann. Cal. C.C.P. §372	GAL	discretionary
	Termination of Parental Rights	West’s Ann. Cal. Fam. Code §7861	Atty.	discretionary

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Colorado	Dependency/Neglect	C.R.S.A. §§ 19-1-111* 19-1-111.5**	*GAL **CASA	*mandatory **discretionary
	Divorce/Dissolution	C.R.S.A. §14-10-116	Atty. &/or Special Advocate (best interest)	discretionary
Colorado continued	Paternity	C.R.S.A. §19-4-110	GAL	discretionary
Connecticut	In general	C.G.S.A. §46b-136	Atty.	discretionary
	Abuse/Neglect	C.G.S.A. §46b-129a(2)	*Atty. **GAL	*mandatory **mandatory if conflict b/t best interests & child's wishes
	Divorce/Dissolution	C.G.S.A. §46b-54	Atty.	discretionary
Delaware	In general	13 Del. C. §701(c)	*GAL (atty. or CASA) **Atty.	*mandatory **discretionary
	Custody	13 Del. C. §721(c)	Atty.	discretionary
	Dependency (Welfare)	10 Del. C. §925 (17); Del. Fam. Ct. R. Civ. Proc. Rule 204	GAL (atty. or CASA)	discretionary
D.C.	Divorce/Dissolution	D.C. Code §§ 16-914(g), 16-918	Atty. &/or GAL	discretionary
	Neglect	D.C. Code § 16-2304(b)(5)	GAL	mandatory
Florida	Dependency	F.S.A. §39.822	GAL	mandatory
	Divorce/Dissolution	F.S.A. §61.401	Atty. &/or GAL	discretionary
	Residential Treatment	F.S.A. §39.407(5)	GAL	mandatory
	Shelter Placement	F.S.A. §39.402(8)(c)(1)	GAL	discretionary
Georgia	In General	Ga. Code Ann. §§9-11-17(c); 29-4-7	GAL	discretionary
	Grandparent Visitation	Ga. Code Ann. §19-7-3(d)(1)	GAL	discretionary
	Termination of Parental Rights	Ga. Code Ann. §15-11-98(a)	*Atty. **GAL	* mandatory ** discretionary
Hawaii	Dependency	H.R.S. §587-34	*Atty.	* discretionary

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			**GAL	** mandatory
	Divorce/Dissolution	H.R.S. §571-46(8)	GAL	discretionary
Idaho	Dependency	I.C. §16-1618	*GAL **Atty.	*mandatory **discretionary
	Divorce/Dissolution	I.C. §32-704 (4)	Atty.	discretionary
Illinois	Dependency	705 ILCS 405/2-17,* 405/2-17.1**	*GAL **CASA	*discretionary **discretionary
	Divorce/Dissolution	750 ILCS 5/506	Atty. or GAL or Best Interest Representative	discretionary
Illinois continued	Paternity	750 ILCS 45/18 (a-5)	Atty. or GAL or Best Interest Representative	discretionary
Indiana	In General	I.C. 31-32-3-1,* 31-32-4-2 (b)**	*GAL &/or CASA **Atty.	*discretionary **discretionary
	Custody/Visitation	I.C. 31-17-6-1	GAL &/or CASA	discretionary
	Dependency (Children in Need of Services)	I.C. 31-34-10-3	GAL &/or CASA	depends on type of harm; see statute for details
	Divorce/Dissolution & Legal Separation	I.C. 31-15-6-1	GAL &/or CASA	discretionary
	Termination of Parental Rights	I.C. 31-35-2-7	GAL &/or CASA	mandatory if parent objects
Iowa	Abuse	I.C.A. §232.71C(3)	GAL	mandatory
	Child in Need of Assistance	I.C.A. §§232.89(2)* (5)**	*Atty. & GAL ** CASA	*mandatory **discretionary
	Divorce	I.C.A. §598.12(1)	Atty.	discretionary
	Family in Need of Assistance	I.C.A. §232.126	Atty. or GAL (GAL may be a CASA)	mandatory
	Foster Care	I.C.A. §232.179	GAL; Atty.	GAL – mandatory Atty. – discretionary
	Paternity	I.C.A. §598.21(4B)	GAL	mandatory
	Termination of Parental Rights	I.C.A. §§232.112(2), 600A.6(2)	GAL (§600A(9) - must be atty.)	mandatory
Kansas	Child in Need	K.S.A. §§	*GAL (must be	*mandatory

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	(?)	38-1505(a)* & ** 38-1505a(a)***	atty.) **Atty. *** CASA (best interests)	**discretionary *** discretionary
	Paternity	K.S.A. §38-1125	GAL	mandatory
Kentucky	Abuse/Neglect	K.R.S. §620.100(1)(a)* §620.100(1)(d)**	*Atty. **CASA	*mandatory **discretionary
	Mental Health?	K.R.S. §645.060(1)	Atty.	mandatory
	Termination of Parental Rights	K.R.S. §625.041(1)	GAL	mandatory
Louisiana	Abuse	LSA-R.S. 9:345(B)	Atty.	mandatory
Louisiana continued	Child in Need of Care	LSA-Ch. C. Arts. 607(A)* 424.1(A)**	*Atty. **CASA	*mandatory **discretionary
	Custody	LSA-R.S. 9:345(A)	Atty.	discretionary
	Mental Health Institutionalization	LSA-Ch. C. Arts. 607(C), 1409(K)	Atty.	mandatory if requested
	Termination of Parental Rights - when opposed	LSA-Ch. C. Art. 1137(B)	Atty.	mandatory
	TPR – permanency planning	LSA-Ch. C. Art. 1146(C)-(D)	Atty.	mandatory if in state’s custody, discretionary if not
Maine	Abuse/Neglect	22 M.R.S.A. §4005(1)(A)* §4005(1)(F)**	*GAL **Atty.	*mandatory **GAL may request atty., but unclear if ct. must appoint
	Adoption	18-A M.R.S.A. §9-304(d)	GAL	discretionary
	Custody/Divorce – when contested	19-A M.R.S.A. §1507	GAL (best interest, but also req’d to make child’s wishes known – subsection (4))	discretionary
	Paternity	18-A M.R.S.A §9-201(f)	Atty.	mandatory

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	Termination of Parental Rights	18-A M.R.S.A. §9-204(c)	GAL	discretionary
Maryland	Child in Need of Assistance	MD Code Cts. & Judicial Proceedings (CJC) §3-813(d)(1)* §3-813(e)**	*Atty. **CASA	*mandatory **discretionary
	Custody/Support/ Visitation – when contested	MD Code Family Law §1-202	Atty.	discretionary
Mass.	Abuse/Neglect	M.G.L.A. 119 §29	Atty.	mandatory
	Abuse – Visitation w/ Abusive Parent	M.G.L.A. 208 §31A, 209 §38, 209A §3, 209C §10	Atty. or GAL	discretionary
	Care & Protection	MA R. Juv. Ct. Order 1-93(4)	Atty.	mandatory
Mass. continued	Child Care, Custody, & Maintenance (but not in Divorce?)	M.G.L.A. 215 §§56A, 56B	GAL	discretionary
	Child Performers	M.G.L.A. 231 §85P ½ (d)(4)	GAL	discretionary
	Enforcement of Post-Adoption Contact	M.G.L.A. 210 §6D	GAL	discretionary
	Omission of Child from Will - Accidental	M.G.L.A. 192 §1C	GAL	mandatory
	Permanency Hearing	MA R. Permanency Hearings Rule 4(C)	Atty.	mandatory
	Termination of Parental Rights	MA R. Prob. Ct. Practice 10a(6)	*Atty. **GAL	*mandatory **discretionary
Michigan	Abuse/Neglect	M.C.L.A. 722.630	Lawyer-GAL ¹	mandatory
	Adoption	M.C.L.A. 710.23e (3)* & (6)**	*Atty. **GAL	*discretionary **discretionary
	Custody	M.C.L.A. 722.24(2)* & MCR 3.204(D)**	*Lawyer-GAL **GAL	*discretionary **GAL
	Guardianship	M.C.L.A.	*Lawyer-GAL	*discretionary

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		700.5213 (4)* & (6)**	**GAL	**discretionary
Minnesota	Child in Need of Protection or Services ²	M.S.A. §260C.212 Subdiv. 4(c)(4)	Atty. & GAL	mandatory
	Custody/Support/ Parenting Time	M.S.A. §518.165 Subdiv. 1 & 2	GAL	mandatory if allegations of abuse or neglect that are not being litigated in another court; otherwise discretionary
	Juvenile Protection Matters, ³ Generally	Juv. Protection Proc. Rule 25.02 Subdiv. 1(a);* Juv. Protection Proc. Rule 26.01**	*Atty. **GAL	*mandatory ** it depends; see M.S.A. §260C.163 Subdiv. 5
	Out-of-home Placement Plan	M.S.A. §260C.212 Subdiv. 1(d)	Atty. & GAL	mandatory
Minnesota continued	Paternity	M.S.A. §257.60	GAL	Ct. must appoint either guardian or GAL
	Permanent Placement – Plan	M.S.A. §260C.212 Subdiv. 4(c)(4)	Atty. & GAL	mandatory
	Permanent Placement – Change	M.S.A. §260C.212 Subdiv. 6(2)	GAL	mandatory
	Termination of Parental Rights	M.S.A. §260C.212 Subdiv. 4(c)(4)	Atty. & GAL	mandatory
Mississippi	Abandonment	Miss. Code Ann. §§93-17-8(5)	GAL	mandatory
	Abuse/Neglect	Miss. Code Ann. §43-21-121(1)(e)* §43-21-201(1) & §43-21-151(1)**	*GAL **Atty.	*mandatory; must also appoint an attorney if GAL is not a lawyer **mandatory
	Abuse – Visitation w/ Abusive Parent	Miss. Code Ann. §97-5-42(3)	GAL	mandatory
	Adoption – contested	Miss. Code Ann. §93-17-8(1)(b)	GAL (must be an attorney)	mandatory
	Paternity – Appeal	Miss. Code Ann.	GAL	discretionary?

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	from Judgment	§93-9-41		
	Termination of Parental Rights	Miss. Code Ann. §93-15-107(1)	GAL	mandatory
Missouri	Abuse	V.A.M.S. 210.160	GAL	mandatory
	Abuse – Orders of Protection	V.A.M.S. 455.513	GAL or CASA	mandatory
	Custody/Support/ Visitation	V.A.M.S. 452.423(1)	GAL	discretionary
	Divorce			
	Grandparent Visitation	V.A.M.S. 452.402(3)	GAL (must be an attorney)	discretionary
	Paternity	V.A.M.S. 210.830	GAL	discretionary
	Termination of Parental Rights	V.A.M.S. 211.462(1)	GAL	mandatory
Montana	Abuse	MCA 41-3-112(1)* 41-3-1013(4)**	*GAL **CASA	*mandatory **discretionary
	Custody/Support/ Visitation	MCA 40-4-205(1)	GAL	discretionary
	Grandparent Visitation	MCA 40-9-102(4)	Atty.	discretionary
	Paternity	MCA 40-6-110	GAL	Ct. must appoint either guardian or GAL
Montana continued	Termination of Parental Rights – involuntary	MCA 41-3-607	GAL	mandatory
Nebraska	Abuse/Neglect	Neb. Rev. St. §43-3710(1)	CASA	discretionary
	Adoption – Contact with Birth Parent(s)	Neb. Rev. St. §43-163(1)	GAL	mandatory
	Divorce	Neb. Rev. St. §42-358(1)	Atty.	discretionary
	Conservator – Appointment	Neb. Rev. St. §30-2636(a)	GAL (must be an atty.)	discretionary
	Guardian - Appointment	Neb. Rev. St. §30-2611(d)	GAL	discretionary
	Indian Child – Foster Care Placement	Neb. Rev. St. §43-1505(2)	Atty. (best interests)	discretionary
	Indian Child – Term.	Neb. Rev. St.	Atty. (best	discretionary

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	of Parental Rights	§43-1505(2)	interests)	
	Paternity	Neb. Rev. St. §43-104.05	GAL	mandatory
	Termination of Parental Rights	Neb. Rev. St. §42-364(7)* §43-3710(1)**	*GAL (must be an atty.) **CASA	*mandatory, when not in Juv. Ct. **discretionary
Nevada	Abuse/Neglect	N.R.S. 432B.420 (1), (3)	Atty. &/or GAL (same person)	discretionary
	Abuse/Neglect – Protective Custody Hearing	N.R.S. 432B.500(1)	GAL	mandatory
	Indian Child – Foster Care Placement	N.R.S. 62D.210(2)(b)	Atty.	discretionary
	Indian Child – Term. of Parental Rights	N.R.S. 128.023(2)(b)	Atty.	discretionary
	Paternity	N.R.S. 126.101(1)	GAL (D.A. or Div. of Welfare)	must have either guardian or GAL
	Probate	N.R.S. 136.200	Atty.	discretionary
	Termination of Parental Rights	N.R.S. 128.100(1)	Atty. &/or GAL (same person?)	discretionary
New Hampshire	Abuse/Neglect – initial action	N.H. Rev. Stat. §169-C:10, I* & II ⁴ **	*GAL or CASA **Atty.	*mandatory **discretionary
	Abuse/Neglect – Preliminary Hearing	N.H. Rev. Stat. §169-C:15, III	Atty.	mandatory upon finding of reas. belief
New Hamp. continued	Conservator – Appointment	N.H. Rev. Stat. §464-A:41, I	GAL	discretionary if sua sponte, mandatory if requested
	Domestic Violence	N.H. Rev. Stat. §173-B:6	GAL	discretionary
	Divorce/Legal Sep./Annulment	N.H. Rev. Stat. §458:17-a, I	GAL (must be atty.) ⁵	discretionary
	Guardian - Appointment	N.H. Rev. Stat. §464-A:41, I	GAL	discretionary if sua sponte, mandatory if requested
	Termination of Parental Rights	N.H. Rev. Stat. §170-C:8	GAL	mandatory
New Jersey	Abuse/Neglect – in general	N.J.S.A. 9:6-8.23* Atty.: NJ R. Ch.	*law guardian **CASA	*mandatory **discretionary

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		Div. Fam. Pt. R. 5:8C**		
	Abuse/Neglect – runs away fr. placement	N.J.S.A. 9:6-8.68	law guardian	mandatory if child at hearing
	Adoption – child fr. approved agency	N.J.S.A. 9:3-47(b)	GAL	mandatory if adverse info vs. prospective parent (PP)
	Adoption – child not fr. approved agency	N.J.S.A. 9:3-48 (a)(4) & (d)	GAL	mandatory if child removed from PP; if not, discretionary
	Custody	N.J.S.A. 9:2-4(c)	Atty. or GAL	discretionary
	Paternity	N.J.S.A. 9:17-47	GAL (atty. or State agency)	discretionary
	Standby Guardian – Appointment	N.J.S.A. 3B:12-77	Atty. or GAL	discretionary
	Termination of Parental Rights	N.J.S.A. 30:4C-15.4(b)	law guardian	mandatory
New Mexico	Custody	N.M.S.A §40-4-8	GAL	discretionary
	Family in Need	N.M.S.A § 32A-3B-8(C)	GAL	mandatory
New York	In General	McKinney’s Family Court Act §241	Atty. or law guardian	depends; see McKinney’s §249(A) for specifics
North Carolina	Abuse/ Neglect	N.C.G.S.A. §7B-601	GAL	mandatory (attorney also mandatory if GAL is not one)
North Carolina continued	Dependency	N.C.G.S.A. §7B-601(A)	GAL	discretionary (attorney also mandatory if GAL is not one)
	Termination of Parental Rights	N.C.G.S.A. §7B-1108	GAL	discretionary (Mandatory if material allegations denied.)
North Dakota	Abuse (Order of Protection)	N.D.C.C. 14-07.1-05.1	GAL (must be an atty.)	discretionary
	Custody/Support/ Visitation	N.D.C.C. 14-09-06.4	GAL	discretionary

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Ohio	Abuse/Neglect	R.C. §2151.281 (B)-(J)	*GAL **Atty.	*mandatory **depends (see R.C. §2151.281(H); Juv. R. Rule 4(A),(C))
Oklahoma	Abuse/Neglect	10 Okl.St. Ann. §7002-1.2(C)	GAL & atty.	mandatory
	Custody/Visitation	43 Okl.St. Ann. §107.3(A)(1)	GAL (must be attorney)	discretionary
	Adoption	10 Okl.St. Ann. §7505-1.2	Atty. & GAL	Atty. – mandatory if contested, discretionary if not; GAL – mandatory if requested, discretionary if not
	Deprived Child	10 Okl.St. Ann. §§7003-3.7(A)(2)* 7003-3.7(B)**	*Atty. **GAL (see (C) - may be a CASA)	*mandatory **discretionary
	Termination of Parental Rights	10 Okl.St. Ann. §7505-2.1(E)(5)	Atty.	mandatory
Oregon	Abuse/Neglect	O.R.S. §§ 419A.170* & 419B.195**	*CASA (best interests) **Atty.	* mandatory **see O.R.S. §§ 419B.195(1), 419B.100
	Custody, Divorce, & Paternity	O.R.S. §107.425(6)	Atty.	mandatory if requested by child(ren), discretionary if not
Penn.	Dependency	42 Pa.C.S.A. §6311	GAL	mandatory
	Termination of Parental Rights	23 Pa.C.S.A. §2313(a)	Atty. &/or GAL	Atty. - mandatory in contested actions; otherwise atty. or GAL - discretionary
Rhode Island	Abuse/Neglect	Gen. Laws 1956, §40-11-14	GAL &/or CASA	mandatory? (confusing wording)
	Termination of Parental Rights	R. Juv. P., Rule 18(c)(3)	GAL &/or CASA	mandatory
South Carolina	Abuse/Neglect	Code 1976 §20-7-110(1)	Atty. & GAL	mandatory

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	Adoption	Code 1976 §20-7-1732	GAL	mandatory
	Custody/Visitation	Code 1976 §20-7-1545	GAL	discretionary
	Involuntary Commitment	Code 1976 §44-24-90	Atty.	mandatory
	Termination of Parental Rights	Code 1976 §20-7-1570(B)	GAL	mandatory; attorney also mandatory if GAL is not one in contested suits, but atty. is discretionary if uncontested
South Dakota	In General - Civil Actions	S.D.C.L. §15-6-17(c)	GAL	mandatory if no guardian or conservator
	Abuse/Neglect	S.D.C.L. §§ 26-8A-9; 26-8A-18; 26-8A-20	*Atty. **GAL or CASA (all best interests)	*mandatory; **discretionary during allegations, mandatory if adjudicated A/N & removed
	Custody/Divorce	S.D.C.L. §25-4-45.4	Atty. (best interests)	discretionary
Tennessee	Abuse/Neglect	T.C.A. §§ 37-1-149(a),* (b)(1)**	*GAL **CASA (best interests)	*mandatory **discretionary
	Divorce	T.C.A. §36-4-132	GAL	discretionary
Texas	In General	V.T.C.A. Family Code §51.11	GAL	mandatory if parent/guardian not available, discretionary otherwise (see §107.021)
	Conservator Appointment	V.T.C.A. Family Code §§107.011, 107.012	GAL & atty. ad litem (AAL)	mandatory
	Termination of Parental Rights	V.T.C.A. Family Code §§107.011, 107.012	GAL & AAL	mandatory

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Utah	In General	U.C.A. §§78-3a-912(2), (3)	Attorney GAL	discretionary
	Abuse/Neglect	U.C.A. §78-3a-314(3),(5)* 78-7-9**	*GAL; **Attorney GAL	*mandatory; **discretionary
	Custody/Support/ Visitation	U.C.A. §§30-3-11.2* 78-7-45(1)**	*Atty.; **Attorney GAL	*discretionary; **discretionary
	Parenting Plan	U.C.A. §30-3-10.8(7)	GAL	discretionary (when parents file inconsistent plans)
	Protective Orders	U.C.A. §78-3h-102	Attorney GAL	discretionary
	Termination of Parental Rights	U.C.A. §78-3a-314(5)	Attorney GAL	mandatory
Vermont	Adoption	15A V.S.A. §3-201(2)	GAL	mandatory in contested, discretionary if uncontested
	Custody/Support	15 V.S.A. §669	GAL	discretionary
Virginia	Abuse/Neglect	Va. Code Ann. §16.1-266(A),* (D)**	*GAL (must be attorney) **Atty.	* mandatory **discretionary
	Custody	Va. Code Ann. §16.1-266(E)	Atty. or GAL	discretionary
	Guardianship	Va. Code Ann. §16.1-350(C)	GAL	mandatory if petition filed by non-parent, otherwise discretionary
	Paternity: establishing & disestablishing	Va. Code Ann. §§20-49.2, 20-49.10	GAL	mandatory
Washington	In General, Family Court	R.C.W.A. §26.12.175(1)(a)	GAL	discretionary
	Abuse/Neglect	R.C.W.A. §§ 13.34.100(1)* 13.34.100(6)** 13.34.100(8)***	*GAL ** Atty. (best interests? – see §13.34.100(7)) *** CASA	* mandatory, unless has indep. atty. or for other good cause **discretionary ***discretionary

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	Custody/Support/Visitation	R.C.W.A. §26.10.070	Atty.	discretionary
	Parenting Plan	R.C.W.A. §26.09.110	Atty.	discretionary
Washington continued	Paternity	R.C.W.A. §26.26.555	GAL	mandatory (but see R.C.W.A. §74.20.310(1))
West Virginia	Divorce	W.Va. Code §48-5-107(f)	GAL	discretionary
	Grandparent Visitation	W.Va. Code §48-10-403	GAL	discretionary
	Guardianship	W.Va. Code §§ 48-9-302(1)-(2)	*GAL **Atty.	*discretionary; **discretionary
Wisconsin	In General, Child in Need of Service or Protection	W.S.A. 48.23 (1m)(b)	Atty. or GAL (if under 12 yrs.)	discretionary, unless petition to remove child from home is contested
	In General	W.S.A. 48.236 (1)	CASA	discretionary
	Abuse/Neglect	W.S.A. 48.23 (3m)	*Atty. **Atty. or GAL (if under 12 yrs.)	* mandatory for 12+ **mandatory for <12 years
	Abortion	W.S.A. 48.23(cm)*; 48.235(d)**	*Atty. **GAL	*mandatory to waive parental consent; **discretionary
	Action by Minor Parent for Child	W.S.A. 769.302	GAL	discretionary
	Adoption - contested	W.S.A. 48.235(c)	GAL	mandatory
	Guardianship	W.S.A. 48.235(c)	GAL	mandatory
	Paternity	W.S.A. 767.475(1)	GAL	usu. discretionary; see 767.045(1)(a) or (c) for mandatory appointments
	Restraining Order	W.S.A. 813.122 (3)(b)(1)	GAL	discretionary
	Termination of Parental Rights	W.S.A. 48.235(c)	GAL	mandatory
Wyoming	In General, Child Protection	W.S.1977 §14-3-416	GAL	discretionary

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	Abuse/Neglect	W.S.1977 §14-3-211	Atty. & GAL (best interests)	mandatory
	Grandparent Visitation	W.S.1977 §20-7-101(a)	GAL	discretionary
	Paternity	W.S.1977 §14-2-812	Atty. (best interests)	discretionary
	Termination of Parental Rights	W.S.1977 §14-2-312	GAL	discretionary

⁰A Lawyer-GAL represents the child's best interest, taking into account the child's wishes. *See* M.C.L.A. 712A.17d(1)(h).

⁰ Includes children who have been abandoned, abused, deprived of basic living necessities, and medically neglected. *See* M.S.A. §260C.007 Subdiv. 6.

⁰ Includes children in need of protection and services, foster care placement, etc. *See* Juv. Protection Proc. Rule 2.01(k).

⁰ N.H. Rev. Stat. §169-C:10, II(a) was held unconstitutional by *In re Shelby R.*, NK"http://web2.westlaw.com/Find/Default.wl?DocName=804A%2E2d435&SerialNum=2002526900&FindType=a&CaseCite=NH+ST+s+169%2DC%3A10&CaseStatKey=NHSTS169%2DC%3A10&AP=&RS=WLV4.06&VR=2.0&SV=Split&MT=LawSchool&FN=_top\t" _top"804 A.2d 435, but the case only dealt with language re: representation for parents. The proposed legislative amendments leave the representation for the child intact.

⁰ GAL Guidelines 1.