

For Immediate Release

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State Auditor Mike Foley Issues Report on Guardian Ad Litem Expenditures in Douglas County

State Auditor Mike Foley released today an audit of the expenditures for guardian ad litem (GAL) services in Douglas County.

The audit was requested by the Douglas County Board of Commissioners.

State Auditor Mike Foley expressed his appreciation to Board Chair Mary Ann Borgeson for her leadership in requesting the audit and for the full cooperation of Douglas County officials during the course of the audit work.

Foley noted, "Board Chair Borgeson is to be commended for her concern for vulnerable children and for taking the steps needed to ensure that the cost of GAL services are properly scrutinized. I am confident that the Douglas County Board will take this report seriously and implement appropriate corrective action."

Board Chair Borgeson stated that "The Douglas County Board of Commissioners welcomes the State Auditor's audit report of the contracted and court-appointed guardian ad litem services and other court-appointed attorney services in the Douglas County Separate Juvenile Court. The Board appreciates the efforts of the State Auditor's staff in preparing this report and will thoroughly review the report and the recommendations contained therein.

"The County Board invited the State Auditor's Office to conduct this audit because it was aware of concerns that have been expressed over the last two years about the guardian ad litem function in the Juvenile Court. The Board is committed to ensuring that the guardian ad litem function is operating in a responsible, professional and efficient manner, and that the requisite level of accountability is in place."

The full audit report is over 100 pages in length and contains a 7 page executive summary and can be found at the State Auditor's web site at the following address:

www.auditors.state.ne.us