Monthly Newsletter October 2023







Not All Guardianships are Created Equal: Where to File for Custody or Guardianship of a Minor Child

Written by Judge Angélica D. Zayas - Associate Administrative Judge, Unified Children's Court

Guardianship of a minor can be a complex issue. The words "guardian" and "guardianship" can mean different things in different courts and in different contexts. As a result, it can sometimes be difficult to determine which statutes apply and which court division has jurisdiction to determine the guardianship or custody of a minor child. To address some of the confusion experienced in the Eleventh Judicial Circuit in the Family, Probate, and Unified Family Divisions, Chief Judge Nushin G. Sayfie issued Administrative Order 22-06 on April 29, 2022, setting forth the guidelines applicable to guardianship cases involving minors. This Administrative Order can be found under the General Information tab on the Eleventh Judicial Circuit home page. Although cases filed in the improper division will be transferred to the proper division by the presiding judge pursuant to Administrative Order 22-06 and will not be dismissed, it is best to file the case in the proper division to avoid unnecessary delay or hardship to the family.

Unified Children's Court Division Cases will be filed in the Unified

Cases will be filed in the Unified Children's Court Division under two circumstances. Dependency cases involving allegations of abuse, abandonment, or neglect of minor children are governed by Chapter 39 of the Florida Statutes and are generally initiated by a call to the 1-800-96-ABUSE hotline. If the Department of Children and Families files a petition to have a minor child declared to be a dependent child pursuant to Chapter 39 of the Florida Statutes, the case will be filed in the Unified Children's Court Division pursuant to Section 39.501,

Florida Statutes and Florida Rule of Juvenile Procedure 8.201. In many cases, the parent or parents of the minor child will be given an opportunity to reunite with the child by engaging in therapeutic and/or rehabilitative services and by completing the tasks set forth in a case plan.

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In the past, social investigations have been called custody

evaluations. They assess each parent's ability to meet their children's

best interests. This normally covers parental responsibility and timesharing. Social investigations are supposed to provide the Court with recommendations about parental responsibility and timesharing to judges, who then decide final judgments.

When one parent calls the other's parenting into question, the court often orders an investigation so the judge has accurate, unbiased

violence, child abuse, substance abuse, mental illness, long-distance relocation or a child with special needs are also likely to require social investigations.

Because the statute mandates specific professionals with credentials, the cost may be a barrier to the parents. Often the costs can range from \$1,500 to \$5000 or more if the parents were to pay the providers

information. Cases involving special circumstances like domestic

directly. The investigator will contact both parents and their attorneys (if they have them). The investigators normally conduct home visits where they speak to the parents, the child and any other members of the households. The investigator will also review documents such as, but not limited to, medical/mental health records, police reports, the filings in the family's court case and any other documents the parents and/or Guardian feel are important.

Havana Nights Nostalgia Photos

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Thank you to our new partners, loyal current partners, fabulous event attendees, and our generous donors! You all made our 2023 Havana Nights Nostalgia a night to remember. It was a lovely evening with all of our wonderful partners and friends as we honored Andi Steinacker with the Maxine Cohen Lando Award. Thanks to your support, KidSide can continue funding essential services for families in need. Your contributions are making a difference in our community!

Check out all of the photos from this fantastic event and be sure to join us at our next event!

Photos Here

Parent Testimonial



The testimonial below is from an anonymous patient who received therapy sessions paid for by KidSide:

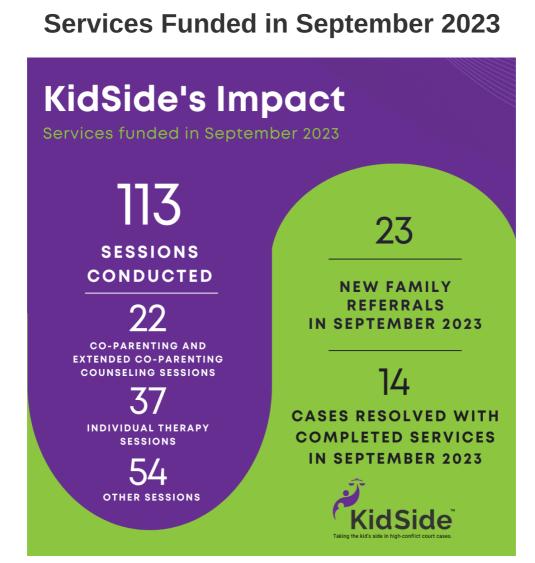
This testimonial was given to express gratitude for the therapy

sessions funded through KidSide. I would like to attribute much of my

progress to the accessible and professional support provided by this grant and the therapist that we saw during my sessions. The guidance received has been very helpful to me in understanding and addressing the cause of my struggles. I felt safe and secure with the non-judgmental space they created during my

sessions. The communication was great, and my sessions were done at a time that worked for me and my schedule. The commitment to mental health has undoubtedly changed lives,

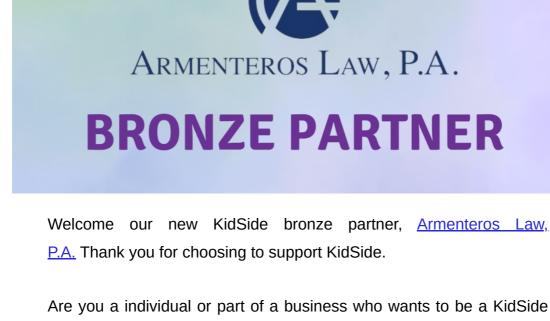
including mine. I am immensely grateful for the opportunity. I truly hope that others will continue to benefit from the vital support it offers.



Newly Funded Program



counselling is also offered. Welcome our New KidSide Partner



partner? We have the opportunity for you!

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Become a KidSide Champion



November 13th - 16th.

by the Miami Foundation from

through an online campaign hosted

WHY BE A KIDSIDE **CHAMPION** If you believe in the important work of Kidside be a Champion to support our mission! As a Champion for KidSlde you reach out to your friends and

family near and far to request

donations to support our mission. Becoming a Champion also expands our reach to inform people about the

peer-to-peer fundraising page to express the reason why you want to be an advocate for the work we do and the children we serve.



Email/Text your Champion Page link to your contacts November 13-16

Make the first donation to set the pace for giving Thank the people who donate to

support your efforts **RAISE MONEY FOR KIDSIDE!!**

impact we have in our community.

www.kidsidemiami.org

REGISTER TO BE A CHAMPION CONTACT MARIAN@KIDSIDEMIAMI.ORG



Give

Now is the time to register to be a KidSide Champion this Give Miami Day! Join our esteemed group of champions as we work to raise funds to help support families and children in need here in South Florida.

Committed Give Miami Day Champions

Patty Arechabaleta Lisette Beraja Eboni Barrow Chris Beck Tiffany Cannava **Grace Casas** Alexandra Courson Janelle Fernandez Cassandra Ferrer

Cassandra Ferrer Amber Glasper Matt James Stacey Jones Vanessa Lyon Josh Lopez Adelmis Naderpour Michelle Multack Marian Ortega

Rebecca Perra **Emily Phillips** Adriana Quirantes Eric Sachs Aileen Siclait Andi Steinacker Malissa Tigges Erica Whittler Patricia Young

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partner and get recognized in the KidSide newsletter and on social media, plus other fantastic benefits. Thank you to all of our existing partners for their continued

Make a difference in your community today. Join KidSide as a

support of KidSide.



