

PLEASE TYPE

_____ County, Colorado <input type="checkbox"/> District Court Court address: _____ Phone Number: _____ In Re: _____ Petitioner: _____ Respondent/Co-Petitioner: _____		▲ COURT USE ONLY ▲
Attorney or Party Without Attorney (Name and Address): _____ Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____ FAX Number: _____ Atty.Reg.#: _____		
		Case Number: _____ Division Courtroom
Order Appointing Special Advocate		

The Court, having reviewed the Court file and the pleadings within, finds that the appointment of a Special Advocate is necessary to protect the best interests of the minor child(ren) pursuant to C.R.S. §14-10-116(2)(b), and C.R.S. §14-10-124. It is therefore ORDERED that _____, whose address and telephone number are _____, is appointed the child(ren)'s Special Advocate to investigate, report and make recommendations in the best interests of the child(ren) on issues relating to custody and parenting time. The Special Advocate shall comply with the requirements of Chief Justice Directive 97-02.

The Special Advocate is appointed because this case involves:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> an unborn child | <input type="checkbox"/> allegations of abuse |
| <input type="checkbox"/> determination of paternity | <input type="checkbox"/> a special needs child |
| <input type="checkbox"/> high conflict between the parties | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other _____ | |

The Special Advocate is directed to investigate and make recommendations to the Court concerning:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> allocation of parental responsibilities | <input type="checkbox"/> property division |
| <input type="checkbox"/> parenting time | <input type="checkbox"/> allegations of abuse |
| <input type="checkbox"/> conflicts between the parties | <input type="checkbox"/> potential dependency and neglect issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other _____ | |

It is further ORDERED that the Special Advocate shall be provided with copies of all pleadings and papers herein. The Special Advocate shall be notified before any action affecting the minor child(ren) is taken by either party or their counsel. Parties and their counsel shall cooperate with the Special Advocate in the Special Advocate's investigation.

It is further ORDERED that upon presentation of a certified copy of this order to any agency, hospital, organization, school, person or office, including the clerk of this court, pediatrician, psychologist, psychiatrist, law enforcement agency, or social service agency, the aforementioned shall permit the Special Advocate to inspect and copy records relevant to custody and parenting time issues. The Special Advocate may consult with any person who may have information relevant to custody and parenting time issues and obtain information from medical, mental health, educational, or other expert persons who have served the child in the past without obtaining the consent of the parent or the child(ren)'s custodian. The Special Advocate shall maintain information received from any source as confidential, and it shall not be disclosed

except in reports filed with the Court in this action, to the parties in this action and their respective counsel, or as further authorized by order of the Court.

It is further ORDERED that after the Special Advocate has thoroughly and independently investigated the issues affecting the minor child(ren), the Special Advocate shall file a clear, concise, written report setting forth independent and informed recommendations to the Court regarding the best interests of the child(ren) at least ten days prior to any hearing. The child(ren)'s wishes, if expressed, shall be included in this report but the Special Advocate need not adopt these wishes in his or her recommendations to the Court. The Special Advocate shall be prepared to testify as a witness regarding his or her recommendations.

It is further ORDERED that the parties shall contact the special advocate _____ days from the date of this order to schedule any necessary meetings. It is further ORDERED that unless the appointment of the Special Advocate is expressly continued by the Court, the appointment shall terminate upon the entry of a decree of dissolution and permanent orders or upon resolution of the post-decree motion.

It is further ORDERED that the expense of the Special Advocate shall be paid by

_____ % by the Petitioner

_____ % by the Respondent

_____ % by the State, based upon the indigency of a responsible party.

It is further ORDERED that the matter of the Special Advocate's fees may be reconsidered at a future hearing. Consideration as to the payment of the Special Advocate's fees shall be based upon the financial status of the parties as well as the necessity and reasonableness of the Special Advocate's fees. If there is any basis for state payment of the parties' share of the expense of the Special Advocate because of indigency, there must be a proper motion filed with the Court complete with the indigent party's application form JDF-208 and a copy of the other party's most recent financial affidavit.

DATE: _____

BY THE COURT:

District Court Judge