

## Registration

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_, ND, zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Space is limited to 30 attendees**

Fee: \$75.00

(Payable to State of North Dakota)

**Registrations are due by May 23, 2025.**

**Send this form and registration fee to:**

**Bryan Pechtl**

**North Dakota Supreme Court**

**600 E Blvd Ave.**

**Bismarck, ND 58505**

**701-328-4292**

## Information

### **What is the role of a parenting investigator?**

When parents are not able to resolve disputes about parenting time or rights and responsibilities, the dispute may go to trial for a judge to decide. Prior to the trial, the court may require the family to participate in a parenting investigation. A parenting investigator is then assigned who will gather information about the family to assist the judge in making the best decision about the child(ren).

### **What is the role of a guardian ad litem?**

In any action for an annulment, divorce, legal separation, or other action affecting marriage, when either party has reason for special concern as to the future of the minor child(ren), and in any action when the parenting rights and responsibilities concerning the child is contested, either party to the action may petition the court for the appointment of a guardian ad litem to represent the child concerning parenting rights and responsibilities. A guardian ad litem shall serve as an advocate of the child's best interests. A guardian ad litem must be a licensed attorney.

## 2025 Parenting Investigator & Guardian ad litem Initial Certification Training



**Sponsored  
by  
North Dakota  
Court System**

**June 3-5, 2025**

**Coteau Room  
First Floor  
State Capitol  
Bismarck, ND**

## Workshop Agenda

### June 3, 2025

8:00 - 8:30	Registration
8:30 - 12:00	Session I
12:00 - 1:00	<i>Lunch (on your own)</i>
1:00 - 5:30	Session II

### June 4, 2025

8:30 - 12:00	Session III
12:00 - 1:00	<i>Lunch (on your own)</i>
1:00 - 5:30	Session IV

### June 5, 2025

9:00 - 12:00	Session V
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## Information

This Initial PI/GAL orientation will provide interactive projects and group discussions. The training will be facilitated by a practicing parenting investigator and guardian ad litem.

Sessions will focus on understanding the role of the parenting investigator and guardian ad litem, gathering information, interviewing, applying the Best Interest Factors, writing a parenting investigator report, and testifying in the court room.

**To receive certification, attendees must attend all the sessions. It will not be recorded.**

This course qualifies for the 20-hour orientation training required by Rules 8.6 and 8.7, of the North Dakota Rules of Court. To receive certification of completion of the training, you must physically attend all classes.

**This training is not intended for continuing education.**

For more information, contact:  
Bryan Pechtl  
State Court Administrator's Office,  
701-328-4292  
bpechtl@ndcourts.gov

## Faculty

### Ashley Heitkamp

Ashley Heitkamp has been a partner at Nilson Brand Law since 2020. Ashley started her practice as a federal law clerk and from there has worked on a wide range of different cases from criminal (both prosecution and defense), to corporate healthcare, to civil and family law litigation. This broad range of experience enables Ashley to see a singular matter from a multitude of different viewpoints.

### Diane Schull

Diane L. Schull is the owner of Schull Law. Diane Graduated from the University of North Dakota in 2007 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Forensic Science. Diane began working as a lay Guardian ad Litem and Parenting Investigator in 2008. After graduating from the University of North Dakota School of Law in 2016, Diane began working as an attorney Guardian ad Litem as well. In addition to being a Parenting Investigator and Guardian ad Litem, Diane is also a Parenting Coordinator and a Family Law Mediator.