

**915.37 Guardian ad litem for prosecuting child witnesses.**

1. A prosecuting witness who is a child, as defined in [section 702.5](#), in a case involving a violation of [chapter 709](#) or [710A](#), or [section 726.2](#), [726.3](#), [726.6](#), or [728.12](#), is entitled to have the witness's interests represented by a guardian ad litem at all stages of the proceedings arising from such violation. The guardian ad litem shall be a practicing attorney and shall be designated by the court after due consideration is given to the desires and needs of the child and the compatibility of the child and the child's interests with the prospective guardian ad litem. If a guardian ad litem has previously been appointed for the child in a proceeding under [chapter 232](#) or a proceeding in which the juvenile court has waived jurisdiction under [section 232.45](#), the court shall appoint the same guardian ad litem under [this section](#). The guardian ad litem shall receive notice of and may attend all depositions, hearings, and trial proceedings to support the child and advocate for the protection of the child but shall not be allowed to separately introduce evidence or to directly examine or cross-examine witnesses. However, the guardian ad litem shall file reports to the court as required by the court. If a prosecuting witness is fourteen, fifteen, sixteen, or seventeen years of age, and would be entitled to the appointment of a guardian ad litem if the prosecuting witness were a child, the court may appoint a guardian ad litem if the requirements for guardians ad litem in [this section](#) are met, and the guardian ad litem agrees to participate without compensation.

2. References in [this section](#) to a guardian ad litem shall be interpreted to include references to a court appointed special advocate as defined in [section 232.2, subsection 9](#).  
[98 Acts, ch 1090, §30, 84; 2009 Acts, ch 19, §3](#)