

House File 172 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE _____
BY BERRY, SMITH, KRESSIG, WINCKLER,
PETTENGILL, WENTHE, WENDT,
T. OLSON, JACOBY, SCHUELLER,
FOEGE, LENSING, ANDERSON, SWAIM,
ABDUL-SAMAD, and FORD

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act prescribing the frequency of a guardian ad litem's visits
2 to the residence of a child.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:
4 TLSB 1828HH 82
5 jp/es/88

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1 1 Section 1. Section 232.2, subsection 22, paragraph b,
1 2 subparagraph (3), Code 2007, is amended to read as follows:
1 3 (3) Visiting the home, residence, or both home and
1 4 residence of the child and any prospective home or residence
1 5 of the child, including each time placement is changed. At
1 6 least once every ninety days, the guardian ad litem shall
1 7 personally visit the residence of the child at a time when the
1 8 child is present in the residence. If the guardian ad litem
1 9 is not a court appointed special advocate or a court appointed
1 10 special advocate has not been appointed for the child, the
1 11 court may designate a court appointed special advocate or
1 12 other person with qualifications acceptable to the court to
1 13 perform the personal visit duty in lieu of the guardian ad
1 14 litem. The court designee shall provide recommendations to
1 15 the guardian ad litem in a timely manner that allows the
1 16 guardian ad litem to incorporate the recommendations in
1 17 representing the best interests of the child before the court.

EXPLANATION

1 18 This bill amends one of the duties contained in the
1 19 definition of the term "guardian ad litem" in Code section
1 20 232.2. A guardian ad litem is an individual appointed by the
1 21 juvenile court to represent the child's interests in any
1 22 judicial proceeding.
1 23 Current law requires the guardian ad litem to visit a
1 24 child's home or residence, or both, and the prospective home
1 25 or residence of the child, including each time the child's
1 26 placement is changed. The bill specifies that at least once
1 27 every 90 days, the guardian ad litem must visit the child's
1 28 residence at a time when the child is present in the
1 29 residence. The bill provides that the court may designate a
1 30 court appointed special advocate or other qualified person to
1 31 perform the personal visit duty in lieu of the guardian ad
1 32 litem. That designee is required to provide timely
1 33 recommendations to the guardian ad litem so that the
1 34 recommendations can be incorporated by the guardian ad litem
2 1 in representing the best interests of the child before the
2 2 court.
2 3 LSB 1828HH 82
2 4 jp:nh/es/88