

**House Study Bill 242 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE  
ON JUDICIARY BILL BY  
CHAIRPERSON HOLT)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the responsibilities of a guardian ad litem  
2 for a minor child.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 232.2, subsection 22, paragraph b,  
2 subparagraphs (1) and (3), Code 2019, are amended to read as  
3 follows:

4 (1) Conducting in-person interviews at least once a month  
5 with the child, if the child's age is appropriate for the  
6 interview, and interviewing each parent, guardian, or other  
7 person having custody of the child, if authorized by counsel.

8 (3) Visiting, at least once a month, the home, residence,  
9 or both home and residence of the child and any prospective  
10 home or residence of the child, including each time placement  
11 is changed.

12 Sec. 2. Section 598.12, subsection 1, paragraph a,  
13 subparagraphs (1), (2), and (3), Code 2019, are amended to read  
14 as follows:

15 (1) Conducting, at least once a month, an initial in-person  
16 interview with the child, if the child's age is appropriate for  
17 the interview, and interviewing each parent, guardian, or other  
18 person having custody of the child.

19 (2) Maintaining regular contact at least once a month with  
20 the child.

21 (3) Visiting, at least once a month, the home, residence, or  
22 both home and residence of the child and any prospective home  
23 or residence of the child.

24 EXPLANATION

25 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
26 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

27 This bill relates to the responsibilities of guardian ad  
28 litem for children.

29 Code sections 232.2 and 598.12 provide duties for guardian  
30 ad litem for children in juvenile delinquency, child in need  
31 of assistance, and dissolution of marriage proceedings. The  
32 bill amends current law to specify a guardian ad litem is  
33 required to, at least once a month, do all of the following:  
34 conduct an initial in-person interview with the child, if the  
35 child's age is appropriate for the interview, and interview

H.F. \_\_\_\_\_

1 each parent, guardian, or other person having custody of the  
2 child; maintain regular contact with the child; and visit the  
3 home, residence, or both the home and residence of the child  
4 and any prospective home or residence of the child.