



# JUDICIAL ORDER

## ORDER OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE

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### NORTH CAROLINA JUDICIAL BRANCH

## NORTH CAROLINA GUARDIAN AD LITEM CHILD ADVOCATE MONTH

ESTABLISHED BY STATUTE IN 1983, THE NORTH CAROLINA GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROGRAM HAS BEEN SERVING ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN FOR MORE THAN 35 YEARS. IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE OF NORTH CAROLINA GUARDIAN AD LITEM'S CHILD ADVOCATE VOLUNTEERS TO NORTH CAROLINA'S CHILDREN, THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2020 IS HEREBY DECLARED "NORTH CAROLINA GUARDIAN AD LITEM CHILD ADVOCATE MONTH" FOR THE JUDICIAL BRANCH.

**WHEREAS**, THE NORTH CAROLINA GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROGRAM HAS A DISTINGUISHED RECORD OF PUBLIC SERVICE THROUGH ITS WORK TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR CHILDREN FOR MORE THAN 35 YEARS; AND

**WHEREAS**, ALL 100 COUNTIES IN NORTH CAROLINA HAVE A GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROGRAM; AND

**WHEREAS**, GUARDIAN AD LITEM VOLUNTEERS COME FROM A VARIETY OF PROFESSIONAL, EDUCATIONAL, AND PERSONAL BACKGROUNDS, AND ACT AS ADVOCATES FOR ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN IN THE COMPLICATED AND OFTEN UNFAMILIAR COURT AND CHILD WELFARE SYSTEMS; AND

**WHEREAS**, ABUSE AND NEGLECT HAVE LONG-TERM PERSONAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL COSTS, HURTING CHILDREN TODAY AND IMPACTING NORTH CAROLINA'S FUTURE; AND

**WHEREAS**, THE COURT APPOINTS GUARDIAN AD LITEM ADVOCATES TO SERVE AS OFFICERS, HELPING TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF INFORMATION PRESENTED TO THE COURT BY ACTING AS THE COURT'S EYES AND EARS IN THE CHILD'S LIFE; AND

**WHEREAS**, MORE THAN 5,500 GUARDIAN AD LITEM ADVOCATES DONATED MORE THAN 531,744 HOURS OF SERVICE TO THE CHILDREN OF NORTH CAROLINA IN 2019; AND

**WHEREAS**, APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH, AN OBSERVANCE THAT REFLECTS THE PURPOSE OF GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROGRAMS, WHICH IS TO PROTECT AND DEFEND CHILDREN FROM HARM AND ENSURE THAT ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN ARE PROVIDED WITH THE COURT-ORDERED SERVICES THEY NEED; AND

**WHEREAS**, APRIL IS RECOGNIZED ANNUALLY IN THE UNITED STATES AS A TIME TO HONOR THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF VOLUNTEERS THROUGH NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH, AND;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I DO HEREBY ORDER THAT THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2020, BE DECLARED AS "CHILD ADVOCATE MONTH" FOR THE JUDICIAL BRANCH OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

THIS THE 3RD DAY OF APRIL, 2020.

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CHERI BEASLEY, CHIEF JUSTICE  
SUPREME COURT of NORTH CAROLINA