

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY (Name, State Bar number, and address):  TELEPHONE NO.: _____ FAX NO. (Optional): _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS (Optional): _____ COUNSEL FOR THE CHILD(REN) (Name Each): _____	FOR COURT USE ONLY
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF VENTURA  STREET ADDRESS: _____ MAILING ADDRESS: _____ CITY AND ZIP CODE: _____ BRANCH NAME: _____	
PETITIONER/PLAINTIFF: _____ RESPONDENT/DEFENDANT: _____ OTHER PARTY: _____	
DECLARATION OF COUNSEL FOR A CHILD REGARDING QUALIFICATIONS	CASE NUMBER: _____

- I, (name): \_\_\_\_\_, declare that if I appeared in court and were sworn, I would testify to the truth of the facts in this declaration.
- On (date): \_\_\_\_\_, I was appointed by the court to represent (name of child): \_\_\_\_\_ in the above case.

**LICENSE / INSURANCE**

- I am a licensed attorney and an active member in good standing of the State Bar of California;
- I have professional liability insurance or am adequately self-insured as previously determined by the court.

**EDUCATION AND TRAINING (Effective January 1, 2009)**

- I have completed at least 12 hours of education and training in the subjects listed in rule 5.242(c).

**EXPERIENCE**

- I have complied with the experience requirements of rule 5.242(f).
  - I have complied with any local court rules that impose experience requirements in addition to those under rule 5.242.
- I have complied with one of the following alternative experience requirements stated in rule 5.242(g):
  - I am employed by a  legal services organization  government agency  private law firm that has been approved by the presiding or supervising judge of the local family court as qualified to represent a child in family law proceedings, and I will be directly supervised by an attorney of the organization, agency, or private law firm who meets the experience requirements under rule 5.242(f);
  - I am working in consultation with an attorney approved by the presiding or supervising judge of the local family court as qualified to represent a child in family law proceedings; or
  - I have demonstrated substantial equivalent experience (please provide a summary of equivalent experience):  
 Continued in Attachment 7c.

PETITIONER/PLAINTIFF: RESPONDENT/DEFENDANT: OTHER PARTY:	CASE NUMBER:
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**ANNUAL CONTINUING EDUCATION (Effective January 1, 2010)**

8.  I have completed 8 hours of continuing education and training annually in the subject areas described in rule 5.242(c).

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (TYPE OR PRINT NAME)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (SIGNATURE OF DECLARANT)

**NOTICE:** Attorneys appointed to represent a child must file a declaration with the clerk of the court indicating compliance with California Rules of Court, rule 5.242, no later than 10 days after each appointment and before beginning work on the case.

<b>SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF</b> STREET ADDRESS: MAILING ADDRESS: CITY AND ZIP CODE: BRANCH NAME:	<b>FOR COURT USE ONLY</b>
PETITIONER/PLAINTIFF: RESPONDENT/DEFENDANT: OTHER PARENT/PARTY:	
<b>ORDER APPOINTING COUNSEL FOR A CHILD</b>	CASE NUMBER:

1. The proceeding was heard:

On (date): \_\_\_\_\_ at (time): \_\_\_\_\_ in Dept.: \_\_\_\_\_ Room: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Judge (name): \_\_\_\_\_  Temporary Judge  
 Petitioner/Plaintiff present  Attorney present (name): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Respondent/Defendant present  Attorney present (name): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other parent/party present  Attorney present (name): \_\_\_\_\_  
 On the request for order, order to show cause, or motion filed (date): \_\_\_\_\_ by (name): \_\_\_\_\_

2. **THE COURT FINDS** it is in the best interest of the child to appoint counsel to represent the child under Family Code section 3150(a).

- a. Counsel appointed for the child (name of counsel): \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Address: \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Email address (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

3. **CHILD OR CHILDREN FOR WHOM COUNSEL IS APPOINTED**

Name	Date of birth	Address(es) (if appropriate)
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4. **REASON FOR APPOINTMENT (specify):**

5. **DETERMINATION OF FEES AND PAYMENT**

a. Counsel for the child will be compensated as follows:

(1) (Specify amount or rate and terms): \_\_\_\_\_

(2)  The court reserves jurisdiction to determine compensation payable to counsel for the child.

(3) The court reserves jurisdiction to modify the compensation payable to counsel for the child retroactively.

PETITIONER/PLAINTIFF: RESPONDENT/DEFENDANT: OTHER PARENT/PARTY:	CASE NUMBER:
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5. b. The court finds that the parties are able to pay the compensation and expenses for the child's counsel.  
 The parties are ordered to pay counsel for the child as follows:

- (1)  Petitioner/Plaintiff                      %  Respondent/Defendant:                      %  Other parent/party:                      %
- (a)  Petitioner/Plaintiff must make installment payments of \$                      per month until paid or modified by court order.
- (b)  Respondent/Defendant must make installment payments of \$                      per month until paid or modified by court order.
- (c)  Other parent/party must make installment payments of \$                      per month until paid or modified by court order.

(2) The court reserves jurisdiction to reallocate attorney's fees and costs between the parties.

c. The court finds that the parties are unable to pay  all  a portion of the costs for child's counsel.  
 The child's counsel must be paid as follows:

- (1)  The court will pay all the fees and expenses for the child's attorney.
- (2)  Petitioner/Plaintiff                      %  Respondent/Defendant:                      %  Other parent/party:                      %
- Payable by court:                      %
- (a)  Petitioner/Plaintiff must make installment payments of \$                      per month until paid or modified by court order.
- (b)  Respondent/Defendant must make installment payments of \$                      per month until paid or modified by court order.
- (c)  Other parent/party must make installment payments of \$                      per month until paid or modified by court order.

(3) The court reserves jurisdiction to reallocate attorney fees and costs between the parties.

(4) The court may seek reimbursement from the parties if the court pays all or a portion of the compensation for the child's counsel.

d. Other:

**6. ADDITIONAL ORDERS**

- a. No later than 10 court days after being appointed by the court and before beginning work on the case, counsel for a child must file a declaration with the court indicating compliance with the requirements of rule 5.242 of the California Rules of Court. *Declaration of Counsel for a Child Regarding Qualifications* (form FL-322) or other local court forms may be used for this purpose.
- b. The parties and their counsel are ordered to cooperate with counsel for the child to permit the performance of his or her duties.
- c. Counsel for the child must be provided with complete copies of all relevant documents and records filed in the proceeding within 10 days of the appointment.
- d. The parties must provide complete information concerning the child's school, medical, psychological, psychiatric, and other pertinent records to the child's counsel on request. The parties must execute such waivers and releases necessary to facilitate the child's counsel in securing access to records for the child.
- e. The parties and/or their counsel must not compromise, settle, dismiss, or otherwise remove from the court's calendar all or any portion of the issues, claims, or proceedings concerning which the child's counsel has been appointed, without participation of the child's counsel or advance notice to the child's counsel.
- f. Counsel must continue to represent the child until the appointment terminates, as provided in rule 5.240(f) of the California Rules of Court, or as stated below in item 7.

**7. OTHER ORDERS:**

PETITIONER/PLAINTIFF: RESPONDENT/DEFENDANT: OTHER PARENT/PARTY:	CASE NUMBER:
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### 8. DUTIES OF COUNSEL FOR A CHILD

- a. Counsel for a child must:
- (1) Represent the child's best interests.
  - (2) Gather evidence that bears on the best interest of the child and present that admissible evidence to the court in any manner appropriate for the counsel of a party.
  - (3) Present the child's wishes to the court if the child so desires.
  - (4) Serve notices and pleadings on all parties consistent with rules and laws applicable to parties.
  - (5) Unless under the circumstances it is inappropriate to exercise the duty:
    - (a) Interview the child;
    - (b) Review the court files and all accessible relevant records available to both parties; and
    - (c) Make any further investigations child's counsel considers necessary to ascertain evidence relevant to the custody or visitation hearings.
  - (6) If so informed by the child at any point, provide notice that the child:
    - (a) Wishes to address the court; or
    - (b) Has changed their choice about addressing the court.
  - (7) Provide the notice in (6) as soon as feasible to the parties or their attorneys, other professionals serving on the case, and then to the judicial officer.
- b. Counsel may introduce and examine witnesses, present arguments to the court concerning the child's welfare, and participate further in the proceeding to the degree necessary to represent the child adequately.

### 9. COUNSEL FOR A CHILD HAS THE FOLLOWING RIGHTS:

- a. To have reasonable access to the child;
- b. To have standing to seek affirmative relief on behalf of the child;
- c. To receive notice of any proceeding, and all phases of that proceeding, including a request for examination affecting the child;
- d. To be heard in the proceeding and take any action available to a party in the proceeding;
- e. To have access to the child's medical, dental, mental health, and other health-care records;
- f. To have access to the child's school and educational records;
- g. To interview school personnel, caretakers, health-care providers, mental health professionals, and others who have assessed the child or provided care to the child;
- h. To interview mediators subject to the provisions of Family Code sections 3177 and 3182;
- i. To assert or waive any privilege on behalf of the child;
- j. To receive reasonable advance notice of and the right to refuse any physical or psychological examination or evaluation that has not been ordered by the court;
- k. On approval of the court, to seek independent psychological or physical examination or evaluation of the child for purposes of the pending proceeding;
- l. On noticed motion to all parties and the local child protective services agency, to request the court to authorize the relevant local child protective services agency to release relevant reports or files concerning the child represented by the counsel as provided by Family Code section 3152; and
- m. Not to be called as a witness in the proceeding. (Family Code section 3151(b)).

### THE COURT SO ORDERS.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 JUDICIAL OFFICER

#### NOTICE

Any party required to pay court-ordered attorney fees or reimburse the court for attorney fees paid on a party's behalf must pay interest on overdue amounts at the legal rate, which is currently 10 percent per year. Failure to pay court-ordered attorney fees or reimburse the court for fees paid on a party's behalf may result in a legal action being initiated to collect overdue payments and interest on overdue amounts.



# California Rules of Court

(Revised January 1, 2023)

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## Rule 5.240. Appointment of counsel to represent a child in family law proceedings

### (a) Appointment considerations

In considering appointing counsel under Family Code section 3150, the court should take into account the following factors, including whether:

- (1) The issues of child custody and visitation are highly contested or protracted;
- (2) The child is subjected to stress as a result of the dispute that might be alleviated by the intervention of counsel representing the child;
- (3) Counsel representing the child would be likely to provide the court with relevant information not otherwise readily available or likely to be presented;
- (4) The dispute involves allegations of physical, emotional, or sexual abuse or neglect of the child.
- (5) It appears that one or both parents are incapable of providing a stable, safe, and secure environment;
- (6) Counsel is available for appointment who is knowledgeable about the issues being raised regarding the child in the proceeding;
- (7) The best interest of the child appears to require independent representation; and
- (8) If there are two or more children, any child would require separate counsel to avoid a conflict of interest.

### (b) Request for appointment of counsel

The court may appoint counsel to represent the best interest of a child in a family law proceeding on the court's own motion or if requested to do so by:

- (1) A party;
- (2) The attorney for a party;
- (3) The child, or any relative of the child;
- (4) A mediator under Family Code section 3184;
- (5) A professional person making a custody recommendation under Family Code sections 3111 and 3118; Evidence Code section 730, or Code of Civil Procedure section 2032.010 et seq.;
- (6) A county counsel, district attorney, city attorney, or city prosecutor authorized to prosecute child abuse and neglect or child abduction cases under state law; or
- (7) A court-appointed guardian ad litem or special advocate;
- (8) Any other person who the court deems appropriate.

### (c) Orders appointing counsel for a child

The court must issue written orders when appointing and terminating counsel for a child.

- (1) The appointment orders must specify the:
  - (A) Appointed counsel's name, address, and telephone number;
  - (B) Name of the child for whom counsel is appointed; and
  - (C) Child's date of birth.
- (2) The appointment orders may include the:
  - (A) Child's address, if appropriate;
  - (B) Issues to be addressed in the case;
  - (C) Tasks related to the case that would benefit from the services of counsel for the child;
  - (D) Responsibilities and rights of the child's counsel;
  - (E) Counsel's rate or amount of compensation;
  - (F) Allocation of fees payable by each party or the court;
  - (G) Source of funds and manner of reimbursement for counsel's fees and costs;
  - (H) Allocation of payment of counsel's fees to one party subject to reimbursement by the other party;
  - (I) Terms and amount of any progress or installment payments; and
  - (J) Ability of the court to reserve jurisdiction to retroactively modify the order on fees and payment.
- (3) Courts may use *Order Appointing Counsel for a Child* (form FL-323) or may supplement form FL-323 with local forms developed under rule 10.613.

(Subd (c) amended effective January 1, 2013.)

**(d) Panel of counsel eligible for appointment**

- (1) Each court may create and maintain a list or panel of counsel meeting the minimum qualifications of this rule for appointment.
- (2) If a list or panel of counsel is maintained, a court may appoint counsel not on the list or panel in special circumstances, taking into consideration factors including language, culture, and the special needs of a child in the following areas:
  - (A) Child abuse;
  - (B) Domestic violence;
  - (C) Drug abuse of a parent or the child;
  - (D) Mental health issues of a parent or the child;
  - (E) Particular medical issues of the child; and
  - (F) Educational issues.
- (3) If the court maintains a panel of counsel eligible for appointment and the court appoints counsel who is not on the panel, the court must state the reason for not appointing a panel counsel in writing or on the record.
- (4) Any lists maintained from which the court might appoint counsel should be reviewed at least annually to ensure that those on the list meet the education and training requirements. Courts should ask counsel annually to update their information and to notify the court if any changes would make them unable to be

appointed.

*(Subd (d) amended effective January 1, 2013.)*

**(e) Complaint procedures**

By January 1, 2010, each court must develop local court rules in accordance with rule 10.613 that provide for acceptance and response to complaints about the performance of the court-appointed counsel for a child.

**(f) Termination of appointment**

On entering an appearance on behalf of a child, counsel must continue to represent that child until:

- (1) The conclusion of the proceeding for which counsel was appointed;
- (2) Relieved by the court;
- (3) Substituted by the court with other counsel;
- (4) Removed on the court's own motion or request of counsel or parties for good cause shown; or
- (5) The child reaches the age of majority or is emancipated.

*Rule 5.240 amended effective January 1, 2013; adopted effective January 1, 2008.*





# California Rules of Court

(Revised January 1, 2023)

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## **Rule 5.242. Qualifications, rights, and responsibilities of counsel appointed to represent a child in family law proceedings**

### **(a) Purpose**

This rule governs counsel appointed to represent the best interest of the child in a custody or visitation proceeding under Family Code section 3150.

### **(b) General appointment requirements**

To be eligible for appointment as counsel for a child, counsel must:

- (1) Be an active member in good standing of the State Bar of California;
- (2) Have professional liability insurance or demonstrate to the court that he or she is adequately self-insured; and
- (3) Meet the education, training, and experience requirements of this rule.

### **(c) Education and training requirements**

Effective January 1, 2009, before being appointed as counsel for a child in a family law proceeding, counsel must have completed at least 12 hours of applicable education and training which must include all the following subjects:

- (1) Statutes, rules of court, and case law relating to child custody and visitation litigation;
- (2) Representation of a child in custody and visitation proceedings;
- (3) Special issues in representing a child, including the following:
  - (A) Various stages of child development;
  - (B) Communicating with a child at various developmental stages and presenting the child's view;
  - (C) Recognizing, evaluating and understanding evidence of child abuse and neglect, family violence and substance abuse, cultural and ethnic diversity, and gender-specific issues;
  - (D) The effects of domestic violence and child abuse and neglect on children; and
  - (E) How to work effectively with multidisciplinary experts.

### **(d) Annual education and training requirements**

Effective January 1, 2010, to remain eligible for appointment as counsel for a child, counsel must complete during each calendar year a minimum of eight hours of applicable education and training in the subjects listed in (c).

### **(e) Applicable education and training**

- (1) Education and training that addresses the subjects listed in (c) may be applied toward the requirements of this rule if completed through:
  - (A) A professional continuing education group;

- (B) An educational institution;
  - (C) A professional association;
  - (D) A court-connected group; or
  - (E) A public or private for-profit or not-for-profit group.
- (2) A maximum of two of the hours may be by self-study under the supervision of an education provider that provides evidence of completion.
- (3) Counsel may complete education and training courses that satisfy the requirements of this rule offered by the education providers in (1) by means of video presentations or other delivery means at remote locations. Such courses are not self-study within the meaning of this rule.
- (4) Counsel who serve as an instructor in an education and training course that satisfies the requirements of this rule may receive 1.5 hours of course participation credit for each hour of course instruction. All other counsel may claim credit for actual time he or she attended the education and training course.

**(f) Experience requirements**

- (1) Persons appointed as counsel for a child in a family law proceeding must have represented a party or a child in at least six proceedings involving child custody within the preceding five years as follows:
- (A) At least two of the six proceedings must have involved contested child custody and visitation issues in family law; and
  - (B) Child custody proceedings in dependency or guardianship cases can count for no more than three of the six required for appointment.
- (2) Courts may develop local rules that impose additional experience requirements for persons appointed as counsel for a child in a family law proceeding.

**(g) Alternative experience requirements**

Counsel who does not meet the initial experience requirements in (f) may be appointed to represent a child in a family law proceeding if he or she meets one of the following alternative experience requirements. Counsel must:

- (1) Be employed by a legal services organization, a governmental agency, or a private law firm that has been approved by the presiding or supervising judge of the local family court as qualified to represent a child in family law proceedings and be directly supervised by an attorney in an organization, an agency, or a private law firm who meets the initial experience requirements in (f);
- (2) Be an attorney working in consultation with an attorney approved by the presiding or supervising judge of the local family court as qualified to represent a child in family law proceedings; or
- (3) Demonstrate substantial equivalent experience as determined by local court rule or procedure.

**(h) Compliance with appointment requirements**

A person appointed as counsel for a child must:

- (1) File a declaration with the court indicating compliance with the requirements of this rule no later than 10 days after being appointed and before beginning work on the case. Counsel may complete the *Declaration of Counsel for a Child Regarding Qualifications* (form FL-322) or other local court forms for this purpose; and
- (2) Notify the court within five days of any disciplinary action taken by the State Bar of California, stating the basis of the complaint, result, and notice of any reproof, probation, or suspension,

**(i) Rights of counsel for a child**

Counsel has rights relating to the representation of a child's best interest under Family Code sections 3111, 3151, 3151.5, 3153, and Welfare and Institutions Code section 827, which include the right to:

- (1) Reasonable access to the child;
- (2) Seek affirmative relief on behalf of the child;
- (3) Notice to any proceeding, and all phases of that proceeding, including a request for examination affecting the child;
- (4) Take any action that is available to a party to the proceeding, including filing pleadings, making evidentiary objections, and presenting evidence;
- (5) Be heard in the proceeding, which may include presenting motions and orders to show cause and participating in settlement conferences and trials, seeking writs, appeals, and arbitrations;
- (6) Access the child's medical, dental, mental health, and other health-care records, and school and educational records;
- (7) Inspect juvenile case files subject to the provisions of Welfare and Institutions Code section 827;
- (8) Interview school personnel, caretakers, health-care providers, mental health professionals, and others who have assessed the child or provided care to the child; however, the release of this information to counsel does not constitute a waiver of the confidentiality of the reports, files, and any disclosed communications;
- (9) Interview mediators, subject to the provisions of Family Code sections 3177 and 3182;
- (10) Receive reasonable advance notice of and the right to refuse any physical or psychological examination or evaluation, for purposes of the proceeding, that has not been ordered by the court;
- (11) Assert or waive any privilege on behalf of the child;
- (12) Seek independent psychological or physical examination or evaluation of the child for purposes of the proceeding on approval by the court;
- (13) Receive child custody evaluation reports;
- (14) Not be called as a witness in the proceedings;
- (15) Request the court to authorize release of relevant reports or files, concerning the child represented by the counsel, of the relevant local child protective services agency; and
- (16) Receive reasonable compensation and expenses for representing the child, the amount of which will be determined by the court.

**(j) Responsibilities of counsel for a child**

Counsel is charged with the representation of the child's best interest. The role of the child's counsel is to gather evidence that bears on the best interest of the child and present that admissible evidence to the court in any manner appropriate for the counsel of a party. If the child so desires, the child's counsel must present the child's wishes to the court.

- (1) Counsel's duties, unless under the circumstances it is inappropriate to exercise the duties, include those under Family Code section 3151:
  - (A) Interviewing the child;
  - (B) Reviewing the court files and all accessible relevant records available to both parties; and

- (C) Making any further investigations that counsel considers necessary to ascertain the facts relevant to the custody or visitation hearings.
- (2) Counsel must serve notices and pleadings on all parties consistent with the requirements for parties.
- (3) Counsel may introduce and examine witnesses, present arguments to the court concerning the child's welfare, and participate further in the proceeding to the degree necessary to represent the child adequately.
- (4) In any case in which counsel is representing a child who is called to testify in the proceeding, counsel must:
- (A) Provide information to the child in an age-appropriate manner about the limitations on confidentiality and the possibility that information provided to the court may be on the record and provided to the parties in the case;
  - (B) Allow but not require the child to state a preference regarding custody or visitation and, in an age-appropriate manner, provide information about the process by which the court will make a decision;
  - (C) Provide procedures relevant to the child's participation and, if appropriate, provide an orientation to the courtroom where the child will be testifying;
  - (D) Inform the parties, other professionals serving on the case, and then the judicial officer about the client's desire to provide input and address the court; and
  - (E) If so informed by the child at any point, provide notice that the child has changed their choice about addressing the court. Notice must be provided as soon as feasible to the parties or their attorneys, other professionals serving on the case, and then to the judicial officer.

*(Subd (j) amended effective January 1, 2023; previously amended effective January 1, 2012.)*

**(k) Other considerations**

Counsel is not required to assume the responsibilities of a social worker, probation officer, child custody evaluator, or mediator and is not expected to provide nonlegal services to the child. Subject to the terms of the court's order of appointment, counsel for a child may take the following actions to implement his or her statutory duties in representing a child in a family law proceeding:

- (1) Interview or observe the child as appropriate to the age and circumstances of the child. In doing so, counsel should consider all possible interview or observation environments and select a location most conducive to both conducting a meaningful interview of the child and investigating the issues relevant to the case at that time.
- (2) In a manner and to the extent consistent with the child's age, level of maturity, and ability to understand, and consistent with the order of appointment for the case:
- (A) Explain to the child at their first meeting counsel's role and the nature of the attorney-client relationship (including confidentiality issues); and
  - (B) Advise the child on a continuing basis of possible courses of action and of the risks and benefits of each course of action.
- (3) Actively participate in the representation of the child at any hearings that affect custody and visitation of the child and attend and participate in any other hearings relevant to the child. In doing so, counsel may, as appropriate:
- (A) Take positions relevant to the child on legal issues before the court;
  - (B) Seek and advocate for services for the child;

- (C) Prepare for any hearings or trials;
  - (D) Work to settle contested issues and to define trial issues;
  - (E) Prepare witnesses, including the child if the child is to testify;
  - (F) Introduce and examine witnesses on behalf of the child;
  - (G) Cross-examine other witnesses;
  - (H) Make appropriate evidentiary objections;
  - (I) Review court files and other pertinent records;
  - (J) Prepare motions to advance the child's interest, including motions to quash subpoenas for the child and other protective orders;
  - (K) Present arguments to advance the child's interest;
  - (L) Prepare trial briefs and other documents if appropriate; and
  - (M) Request appointment of separate appellate counsel.
- (4) Conduct thorough, continuing, and independent investigations and discovery to protect the child's interest, which may include:
- (A) Obtaining necessary authorizations for the release of information.
  - (B) Reviewing the child's social services, mental health, drug and alcohol, medical, law enforcement, education, and other records relevant to the case;
  - (C) Reviewing the court files of the child and his or her siblings, case-related records of the social service agency, and case-related records of other service providers;
  - (D) Contacting attorneys for the parties and nonlawyer guardians ad litem, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs), and other service professionals, to the extent permitted by local rule, for background information;
  - (E) Contacting and meeting with the child's parents, legal guardians, or caretakers, with permission of their attorneys;
  - (F) Interviewing witnesses and individuals involved with the child, including school personnel, child welfare caseworkers, foster parents and other caretakers, neighbors, relatives, coaches, clergy, mental health professionals, physicians, law enforcement officers, and other potential witnesses;
  - (G) Reviewing relevant photographs, video or audio recordings, and other evidence;
  - (H) Documenting the results of these investigations;
  - (I) Monitoring compliance with court orders as appropriate, including the provision for and effectiveness of any court-ordered services;
  - (J) Promoting the timely progression of the case through the judicial system;
  - (K) Investigating the interests of the child beyond the scope of the proceeding and reporting to the court other interests of the child that may need to be protected by the institution of other administrative or judicial proceedings; however, counsel is not responsible for instituting those proceedings or representing the child in them unless expressly appointed by the court for that purpose; and

- (L) After learning of other existing administrative or judicial proceedings involving the child, communicating and cooperating with others to the extent necessary and appropriate to protect the child's interest.
- (5) Taking all other steps to represent the child adequately as appropriate to the case, including becoming knowledgeable in other areas affecting minors including:
  - (A) The Indian Child Welfare Act;
  - (B) Information about local experts who can provide evaluation, consultation, and testimony; and
  - (C) Delinquency, dependency, probate, family law, and other proceedings.

*(Subd (k) amended effective January 1, 2016.)*

*Rule 5.242 amended effective January 1, 2023; adopted effective January 1, 2008; previously amended effective January 1, 2012, and January 1, 2016.*