CAYMAN ISLANDS



Children Act

(2012 Revision)

GUARDIANS AD LITEM (PANEL) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS, 2026

PUBLISHING DETAILS

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In exercise of the powers conferred by sections 43(7) and 95 of the Children Act (2012 Revision), the Cabinet makes the following Regulations —

Citation and commencement

1. (1) These Regulations may be cited as the Guardians *Ad Litem* (Panel) (Amendment) Regulations, 2026.

(2) These Regulations come into force immediately after the *Children (Amendment) Act, 2024* comes into force.

General amendment of the Guardians *Ad Litem* (Panel) Regulations, 2012 - deletion of the words "Governor in Cabinet" and substitution with the word "Cabinet"

2. The *Guardians Ad Litem (Panel) Regulations, 2012*, in these Regulations referred to as the "principal Regulations", are amended by deleting the words "Governor in Cabinet" wherever they appear and substituting the word "Cabinet".

Amendment of regulation 2 - definitions

3. The principal Regulations are amended in regulation 2 as follows —

(a) by deleting the definition of the word "**Law**";

(b) in the definition of the words "**panel committee**" as follows —

(i) by deleting the words "regulation 6(b)" and substituting the words "regulation 6(1)(b)"; and

(ii) by deleting the word "and" after the semi-colon;

(c) in the definition of the words "**relevant proceedings**", by deleting the words "the *Children Law, 2003*." and substituting the words "the Act; and"; and

(d) by inserting after the definition of the words "**relevant proceedings**", the following definition —

" "**training**", in relation to members of the panel, means training, identified by the court, in child advocacy, child protection, mental health, special needs, child development, youth justice, trauma, relevant legislation, relevant court processes and any other matters considered relevant by the court.".

Amendment of regulation 4 - appointment of guardians *ad litem* panel

4. The principal Regulations are amended in regulation 4(3) by deleting the word "he" wherever it appears and substituting the words "the Cabinet".

Amendment of regulation 5 - selection of guardians *ad litem* for relevant proceedings

5. The principal Regulations are amended in regulation 5 by deleting the word "Law" and substituting the word "Act".

Repeal and substitution of regulation 7 - termination of panel membership

6. The principal Regulations are amended by repealing regulation 7 and substituting the following regulation —

"**Termination of panel membership**

7. (1) The Cabinet may terminate a person's membership on the panel if the Cabinet is satisfied that the member —

(a) is failing, without reasonable excuse, to carry out that member's duties in a reasonable or timely manner;

(b) has failed to comply with the training requirements specified in regulation 13;

(c) has, in the opinion of the Cabinet, an unacceptable conflict of interest;

(d) is of unsound mind or is incapable of carrying out that member's duties;

(e) has engaged in —

(i) serious misconduct in relation to that member's duties;

(ii) conduct that is detrimental to the effective governance of the panel; or

(iii) conduct that brings the panel into disrepute;

(f) becomes bankrupt, suspends payment to or compounds with that member's creditors; or

(g) is convicted of an offence for which that member is sentenced by a court to a term of imprisonment.

(2) The Cabinet, before terminating a person's membership on the panel, shall —

(a) notify the person in writing of the reasons why it is proposed that the person's membership on the panel should be terminated; and

(b) give the person an opportunity to make representations in writing.

(3) A member of the panel may resign office by notice in writing addressed to the Cabinet.".

Amendment of regulation 8 - complaints about the operation of the panel and members of the panel

7. The principal Regulations are amended in regulation 8(5) by deleting the word "he" and substituting the words "the Cabinet".

Amendment of regulation 9 - expenses, fees and allowances of members of panel

8. The principal Regulations are amended in regulation 9 by deleting the words "Legislative Assembly" and substituting the word "Parliament".

Amendment of regulation 13 - training

9. The principal Regulations are amended in regulation 13 as follows —

(a) by renumbering regulation 13 as regulation 13(1); and

(b) by inserting after regulation 13(1), as renumbered, the following paragraphs —

"(2) After a person is appointed to the panel, but before the person commences duties related to that appointment, the person shall engage in training for at least fifteen hours in the aggregate.

(3) For the duration of the appointment of a member of the panel, the member shall engage annually in training, and the annual training requirement shall be for at least ten hours in the aggregate.".

Amendment of Schedule 1 - complaints committee

10. The principal Regulations are amended in Schedule 1 as follows —

(a) in paragraph 1, by repealing subparagraphs (b) and (c) and substituting the following subparagraphs —

"(b) two members of the public who are not officers of the Department and who, in the opinion of the Cabinet, have wide knowledge and experience in child care; and

(c) a member of the public who is not an officer of the Department and who, in the opinion of the Cabinet, has wide knowledge and experience in law."; and

(b) in paragraph 3, by deleting the word "panel" and substituting the word "complaints".

Made in Cabinet the 9 September **day of , 2026.**

Clerk of the Cabinet

Laid in the Parliament the day of , 2026 in accordance with section 95(2) of the *Children Act (2012 Revision)*.

Clerk of the Parliament