

# CHILD ATTORNEY BOARD

Board Established by: County

## Description:

On October 20, 2010, a resolution was passed (Item #10-1041) modifying the composition of the board so that the Chairperson of the Child Attorney Board will be a Fulton County Commissioner, or a designee, chosen by the Board of Commissioners. On October 7, 2009, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution (Item #09-0996) to permit current members of the Child Attorney Board to continue their service through the 18 month duration of the decree as referenced in paragraph 9 of the Modified Consent Decree of May 18, 2009, removing all references to staggered terms. On October 15, 2008, a Resolution (Item 08-0820) was adopted by the Board of Commissioners to change the board name to the Child Attorney Board. This change reflects the child-directed model of representation utilized by the Child Advocate Attorney's Office. This Board was established at the Fulton County Board of Commissioners' Recess Meeting, March 21, 2007, (Item #07-0288). The Board of Commissioners believes that the best interests of foster children in Fulton County will be served through creation of an independent Child Advocate Board, which will serve to provide oversight of the policies and procedures within the Office of the Child Advocate Attorney and directly supervise the managing Child Advocate Attorney. This Board will make recommendations to the County Manager regarding the oversight of the policies and procedures within the Office of the Child Advocate Attorney and the hiring and firing of the managing Child Advocate Attorney.

## Membership/Appointment:

This Board shall consist of five (5) members to: (1) establish policies and procedures within the Office of the Child Attorney to ensure compliance with the Kenny A. Consent Decree and Fulton County's policies and procedures; (2) directly supervise the managing Child Advocate Attorney to ensure that the managing Child Advocate Attorney and Office of the Child Attorney comply with the Kenny A Consent Decree and Fulton County policies and procedures; (3) evaluate and make hiring and firing recommendations to the County Manager regarding the managing Child Attorney; and (4) assist the managing Child Attorney in prioritizing budgetary requests and evaluating the performance of the office.

The five (5) member board shall be composed of one Fulton County Commissioner, chosen by the Board of Commissioners, who will serve as the Child Attorney Board Chairperson, or a designee, chosen by the Board of Commissioners, and four (4) members nominated by the County Manager, two of whom shall be licensed attorneys with expertise in the area of child advocacy and two of whom shall be professionals (possibly lawyers, but also social workers, etc.) knowledgeable of the Juvenile Justice System. All members shall be Fulton County residents and shall serve at the pleasure of their respective appointing authorities.

The County Manager will solicit recommendations for membership from the following organizations: (1) Barton Child Law and Policy Clinic; (2) Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA); (3) Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation, One Child-One Lawyer Program; (4) the Georgia Association of Council for Children (GACC); (5) the Georgia Bar Foundation; and (6) the Georgia Center for Children. Additionally, the County Manager will solicit recommendations for membership on the Child Attorney Board from the State Bar of Georgia and other Fulton County Bar organizations.

## Term:

Members serve indefinite terms

**Compensation:** YES                      **Stipend:** \$200 per meeting

**Meetings:** Monthly

**Contact(s):** Coy J. Johnson, Director  
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<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>APPOINTMENT</b>	<b>TERM ENDING</b>
1 Ms. Karlise Y. Grier	Member/Lawyer	
2 Ms. Elizabeth A. Reimels	Member/Lawyer 2	
3 Mr. Thomas G. Sampson	Member/Lawyer 3	
4 Ms. Renata D. Turner	Member/Lawyer 4	