

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA

IN RE: The Matter of:

JUSTIN MATTHEW BAKER

CASE NO.: 2021-DR-3960

Petitioner,
and

WHITNEY JOYCE WARD,

Respondent.

_____/

ORDER SEALING GUARDIAN AD LITEM REPORT TO COURT

THIS CAUSE came before the Court on the parties' joint ore tenus Motion to Determine Confidentiality of Court Records pursuant to Fla. Fam. L. R. P. 12.400 (2024) and Fla. R. Jud. Admin. 2.420(e) (2024). The Guardian Ad Litem consented to the relief requested in the ore tenus Motion. The Court, having considered the motion and being otherwise advised in the premises, finds:

1. The Court has the authority to seal the Guardian Ad Litem Report to the Court dated March 21, 2024.

2. This action is a paternity action. The Guardian conducted an investigation and made recommendations to the Court regarding a Parenting Plan for the parties' minor child. Information received and considered by the Guardian is discussed in the Guardian's Report, and the Guardian's Report includes information that is confidential and protected from disclosure by applicable state and federal laws.

3. The information contained in the Guardian Ad Litem Report to the Court dated March 21, 2024, should be sealed to avoid substantial injury to third parties, to wit, the minor child who is the subject of this action.

4. The progress docket and other records generated to document activity in the case are not determined to be confidential.

5. All information contained in the Guardian Ad Litem Report to the Court dated March 21, 2024, is deemed confidential.

6. The only persons permitted to view the confidential information are the parties, their counsel of record, and the Guardian Ad Litem in this case.

7. The degree, duration, and manner of confidentiality ordered by the Court are no broader than necessary to protect the interests set forth herein, and no less restrictive means are available to protect those interests.

Based on the foregoing findings of fact, it is hereby ADJUDGED as follows:

1. The Clerk of Court is directed to seal the Guardian Ad Litem Report to the Court dated March 21, 2024, in this matter.

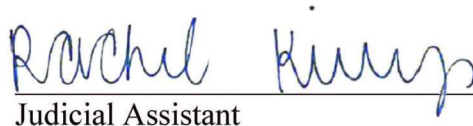
2. The Clerk of Court is directed to publish this Order in accordance with Fla. R. Jud. Admin. 2.420(e)(4).

ORDERED in Chambers at Ocala, Marion County, Florida this 28 day of May, 2024.


R. GREGG JERALD
Circuit Court Judge

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a copy of the foregoing has been furnished by electronic mail via the Florida Courts E-Filing Portal to R. Colt Kirkland, Esquire, Attorney for Petitioner/Father, at colt@kirklandlawocala.com and sheila@kirklandlawocala.com, to Anne E. Raduns, Esquire, Attorney for Respondent/Mother, at efiling@ocalafamilylaw.com, heather@ocalafamilylaw.com and receptionist@ocalafamilylaw.com, and to Stacie L. Corbett, Esquire, Guardian Ad Litem, at stacie@smithcorbett.com and angel@smithcorbett.com, this 28 day of May 2024.


Judicial Assistant