
TRIAL ADVOCACY PREPARING FOR AN IMPORTANT HEARING

Research the issues

- Review statutes and rules
- Review related case law – stay on top of latest cases
 - Case summaries available at www.GuardianadLitem.org
- Identify factors to be considered
- Identify the elements that must be established by evidence at the hearing

Make a list of facts that support and do not support your position

- Know timelines and details
- Look at your position from the opposing side to make sure you have covered all of your bases
- Think about what evidence you will need and how/who you will bring it in.

Prepare

- Prepare a list of questions you will ask witnesses – only as a guide
- Know foundation, objections
- Use a cheat sheet
- Have your statute book with you

Summarize

- Keep it simple
- Don't get sidetracked
- Have a theme
- Tie in expert's opinion with the issue involved