

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator.

SENATOR PEDERSEN: I understand that the guardian ad litem is not the parent, foster parent or guardian in any way, shape or form, for the child's actions, child's living situation. Guardian ad litem is the attorney. But don't you think the guardian ad litem should at least know the client they're working with, somewhere in that 18... I don't think the... when he put it down to the 18 months that it was that much of a burden that they would at least meet them once.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, I would think in most types of cases... in most types of cases that would naturally be done. And in many types of cases I think it would probably be negligence if it wasn't done, if a lawyer were doing this and properly representing them. So that portion of it I don't find nearly the burden as I do another portion of this committee amendment.

SENATOR PEDERSEN: You agree then that an attorney then has to have some kind of a relationship with their clients? Do you believe that a relationship can be done on a telephone?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, Senator, I think it probably all depends on the situation. Telephonic communications are certainly adequate, depending on the nature of the adversary proceeding that's involved in a particular instance. Maybe it's relatively simple, and maybe the alternatives are fairly clear and fairly obvious. You know, maybe it doesn't take traveling 100 or 200 miles someplace to talk about what you could talk about over the phone. It depends on the situation.

SENATOR PEDERSEN: And I'm concerned about that we have good verbiage going into the bills that come across here and that it fits into the statute right. But I also have that human concern about the fact that even as an attorney that you have some kind of a relationship with your client, and that can't always be done over a telephone. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Pedersen. The Chair recognizes Senator Lindsay, followed by Senators Abboud and Vrtiska.