

**SENATE . . . . . No. 951**

---

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Nick Collins*

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to improving training for child advocates to recognize indicators of domestic violence.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

*Nick Collins*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*First Suffolk*

**SENATE . . . . . No. 951**

By Mr. Collins, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 951) of Nick Collins for legislation to improve training for child advocates to recognize indicators of domestic violence. The Judiciary.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court  
(2021-2022)**

An Act relative to improving training for child advocates to recognize indicators of domestic violence.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 56a of Chapter 215 of the General laws as appearing in the 2006  
2 Official edition, is hereby amended by inserting, in line 7, after the word “attorney.” the  
3 following words: - All child custody cases referred to a guardian ad litem will require a domestic  
4 violence screening assessment in which a judge shall cause a search to be made of the records  
5 contained within the statewide domestic violence record keeping system, maintained by the  
6 office of the commissioner of probation, and shall review the resulting data to determine whether  
7 the parties have a civil or criminal record involving domestic violence prior to a decision  
8 rendered.

9 All appointed guardian ad litem will be required to have completed a minimum of 24  
10 hours of professional development training for certification, and at least 8 hours of training on  
11 the indicators of domestic violence from an approved domestic violence organization.

- 12            Formal complaints of the competency of an appointed Guardian ad Litem can be filed in
- 13   motion to a judge in camera. -: