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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

A.W., a minor, by and through his mother
AMY WRIGHT,

Plaintiff,

v.

TEHACHAPI UNIFIED SCHOOL
DISTRICT,

Defendant.

No. 1:17-cv-00854-DAD-JLT

ORDER APPOINTING GUARDIAN AD
LITEM

(Doc. No. 2)

On June 25, 2017, petitioner Amy Wright filed a petition to be appointed guardian ad litem for plaintiff A.W. for purposes of this action. (Doc. No. 2.)

“District courts have a special duty, derived from Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 17(c), to safeguard the interests of litigants who are minors.” *Robidoux v. Rosengren*, 638 F.3d 1177, 1181 (9th Cir. 2011). Rule 17 provides that “[t]he court must appoint a guardian ad litem—or issue another appropriate order—to protect a minor or incompetent person who is unrepresented in an action.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 17(c)(2). Local Rule 202(a) of this court further states, in pertinent part:

Upon commencement of an action or upon initial appearance in defense of an action by or on behalf of a minor . . . the attorney representing the minor or incompetent person shall present . . . a

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motion for the appointment of a guardian *ad litem* by the Court, or . . . a showing satisfactory to the Court that no such appointment is necessary to ensure adequate representation of the minor or incompetent person. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 17(c).

The decision to appoint a guardian ad litem “must normally be left to the sound discretion of the trial court.” *United States v. 30.64 Acres of Land*, 795 F.2d 796, 804 (9th Cir. 1986).

Petitioner Amy Wright petitions the court to appoint her as guardian ad litem to her child, plaintiff A.W., a nine-year-old minor. Petitioner states that she is the mother to plaintiff A.W., and that she is competent and responsible to represent and protect the interests of plaintiff A.W. Finding good cause, the court grants the petition (Doc. No. 2) and appoints Amy Wright guardian ad litem of A.W., a minor and plaintiff to this action.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: February 16, 2018


UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE