## **Executive Summary**

The Guardian ad Litem’s role is to provide a thorough and impartial evaluation of both parents’ abilities to support their children’s best interests. This responsibility includes a balanced analysis of all available evidence, especially in areas as critical as mental health, which can significantly influence parenting and co-parenting dynamics. In this case, the evaluation of Christine’s mental health falls short in several key areas, leaving a critical gap in the report’s foundation.

While the evaluator concludes that Christine’s mental health is “not of concern,” this statement lacks depth and is inconsistent with the evidence available. Psychological testing noted defensiveness and possible minimization of problems, characteristics that warranted further exploration given their potential impact on decision-making and co-parenting. However, the evaluator explicitly chose not to pursue a deeper analysis, leaving questions unanswered about how these traits might affect the parenting plan.

Further complicating the evaluation is Christine’s refusal to allow her therapist to participate. While this decision is within her rights, it also creates a significant information gap, preventing a fuller understanding of her mental health profile. This lack of transparency contrasts with the extensive scrutiny applied to the other parent, creating an imbalance in the evaluation process that undermines its fairness and completeness.

These omissions are not minor—they directly affect the evaluator’s ability to assess Christine’s suitability to make sound, child-centered decisions independently. Characteristics such as moral rigidity and limited social engagement, flagged in the psychological testing, may impede her ability to navigate co-parenting effectively. By overlooking these areas, the evaluation risks presenting an incomplete picture of her capabilities and the dynamics at play.

To ensure decisions truly reflect the children’s best interests, it is essential that evaluations engage deeply with all available evidence. A more thorough analysis of Christine’s mental health, including greater transparency and exploration of key traits, would provide the balanced perspective needed to inform a parenting plan that prioritizes stability, healing, and the children’s long-term well-being.