

Volunteers Needed



“ While my life was so uncertain, always switching houses and never knowing who my social worker would be from one week to the next, one factor remained constant, my Guardian ad Litem. ”

— 17 year old girl

Contact Us Today

www.GuardianadLitem.org

1-866-341-1425

FLORIDA
**GUARDIAN
AD LITEM**
PROGRAM

*The Voice for Florida's Abused
& Neglected Children*

WHAT IS A GUARDIAN AD LITEM?

A Guardian ad Litem (GAL) is appointed by the court to advocate for a child. Most of these children have been removed from their homes because of alleged abuse, abandonment or neglect. The GAL becomes familiar with the child and the child's case and makes recommendations to the court to help ensure a safe, caring, stable and permanent environment.



ROLES OF THE GUARDIAN AD LITEM

Information Gatherer: Collects all pertinent information and interviews family, foster parents, teachers and other persons involved in the child's life.

Community Advocate: Works with community partners to ensure that the child is receiving the assistance and support needed to succeed.

Courtroom Advocate: Based on the information gathered, makes independent recommendations to the court and becomes the voice of the child, communicating the best interests of the child to all involved.



YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

It is incredibly rewarding to advocate for a child, and it has never been easier to get started.



GUARDIANS AD LITEM RECEIVE:

- The opportunity to be a champion for an abused or neglected child.
- 30 hours of training and six hours annually of continuing education provided by the Guardian ad Litem Program – previous training or legal background is not required.
- A strong and responsive support system including program staff and attorneys who, along with the volunteer, work as a team to provide advocacy for the child.



OTHER WAYS YOU CAN HELP:

- Become active in the non-profit organization supporting the local GAL Program in your area (find it at www.GuardianadLitem.org)
- Join the Florida Guardian ad Litem Association (www.flgal.org)
- Become a corporate partner
- Talk to your elected officials about the importance of the Guardian ad Litem Program

“ You're the only one who ever listened to me or asked my opinion. ”

— 14 year old child,
talking to her GAL

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