



“ 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

Pro Bono Attorneys Needed



Contact Us Today

www.GuardianadLitem.org
1-866-341-1425



Fostering Independence

GUARDIAN AD LITEM
Pro Bono Project

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 advocates for the child's best interests, including physical safety and emotional well-being; permanent placement in a stable and nurturing home; and protection from further harm during the child's involvement in the court system.



GIVE A CHILD A VOICE IN COURT

Currently thousands of Florida's abused and neglected children go to court alone. Every day teenagers in foster care transition into adulthood without the benefit of an advocate. As part of an effort to provide all of Florida's children with a voice in court, the Florida Guardian ad Litem Program needs your help.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

We are looking for attorneys who are willing to provide advocacy for teens in foster care by serving as a GAL. It is incredibly rewarding to advocate for a child, and it has never been easier to get started:

- ❑ To volunteer, contact your local GAL Program, by calling **1-866-341-1425** or by visiting **www.GuardianadLitem.org**.
- ❑ Complete an 8 hour specialized training by viewing a series of DVDs, which can be checked out from your local GAL Program and taken home. Earn **8 hours of CLE credits**, including 1 ethics credit, and you fulfill your pro bono requirement for the Florida Bar by making a lasting difference in the life of a child.
- ❑ Once you have completed the training, you are ready to become a GAL for a foster child transitioning into adulthood. You will work as a team with GAL Program staff and attorneys to provide advocacy for a foster child.



OTHER WAYS YOU CAN HELP:

You can also help a child in need by representing a child's wishes and legal interests as an attorney ad litem. Provide specialized advocacy for a child using your area of expertise, including:

- Special education
- Special health needs, including mental health advocacy in commitment proceedings
- Immigration
- Probate
- Guardianship
- Appellate work within the dependency case

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

— 14 year old child,
talking about GAL

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