

Ellen Kranzler:

It is direct help for the children who really need help. You're there for them. It's not a surface thing, it's not temporary, you are giving them something that they need very badly, and you are really there to speak up for them. I've been at Guardian Ad Litem for eight years. I had retired from teaching up north and come south to Florida and needed something to do. I said, "That's it, that's what I need to do," and I've been with it ever since. I am a mentor coordinator, I'm transportation coordinator, I help recruit. The situations they're in are not situations that they have chosen to be in, or they want to be in. You get paid in warm fuzzies, And I have been paid in so many warm fuzzies.

Ellen Kranzler:

I have a 22-year-old child at this point, that I've been with since he was 14. I'm like a grandparent to him. He's part of my life. You're part of their lives, you're there for them. You have made a difference in their lives. It can be anybody, you don't need any experience. You don't need any background in any particular area. Willing to be the eyes and ears for this child and say, "I am here to speak for this child. I will represent this child. What does this child need for its life?" Not what anybody else involved needs. No one else is standing there for that child. Everybody else has a lawyer. Everybody else has somebody representing them, and the child has nobody. Go in with an open mind. You need to see what's happening for that child, and you are the eyes and the ears representing this child to be there for them and stand up for them.