

Tom Jones : I had met someone who worked within the program and I just immediately became very interested and I decided to volunteer. It gives the child someone who they can ultimately trust and someone that will be a voice for them in court or otherwise and someone who really knows what they want, what they're thinking. That's very important. The initial training for the volunteers was very helpful and very extensive in detail and I think that set a good foundation for me in terms of what to expect. I haven't really found that being an attorney really had any bearing on anything. It did maybe help me understand at first a little bit about the legal system and that type of thing, but I mean it's not real complex and then ultimately getting an assignment was very exciting actually.

I try to be a very positive person in general and I just felt well this is something, I just got to go in and be myself and I remember the drive over to where he was staying at the time and I think we talked for maybe an hour or an hour and a half. Laughed a lot and got to know each other just a little bit.

The judicial review, which they typically have every quarter, every three months or, so the judge is simply trying to find out how the child is doing and so he'll hear reports from the different entities involved in his life, one of which is guardian ad litem. There's not a lot of pressure there on volunteer at all, but as a volunteer you'll want to speak up for your child. You will talk to your child and know what their needs and wants and how they're doing and when the court asks you, the judge asks you, the judges are always very friendly. I would just say just being a kind person who has a little bit of time is probably the best person to do something like be a volunteer in this program, so I would recommend that program for anyone who even just has a couple hours a month.

I know that Malachi and I we bonded very quickly and we'll always have a very close link together for the rest of our lives.