



PALM BEACH COUNTY GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROGRAM

Guardian Ad Litem is a state supported program consisting of trained volunteers (21 years of age and older) and professional staff. These volunteers are citizens from the community who now become part of the court process in order to represent and advocate for a child's best interest. Most of these children, now subjects of judicial proceedings, have been removed from their homes because of alleged abuse, abandonment or neglect.

Volunteers must pass a screening process and background check as well as complete the training process. Our volunteers advocate for needed services for the child; report to the judge, case manager and attorney via written reports and testimony; monitor the case from beginning to end. With a GAL, a child is half as likely to languish in the foster care and child welfare system and more likely to find a safe, permanent home.

In Palm Beach County, there are approximately 1400 children in the system at this time. To be part of Guardian ad Litem, there are no special legal skills necessary- just good common sense and the desire to help abused and neglected children. Someone interested in helping children may also volunteer for our **Speak Up for Kids program**. Speak Up for Kids' is a 501(c3) non-profit whose sole purpose is to support the GAL program and its mission through fundraising, grants, community events/ awareness and presentations. Volunteers are needed for Marketing, Website Management, Administrative, Special Events and Media Relations.

To VOLUNTEER or obtain more information regarding Guardian ad Litem and Speak Up for Kids, visit our website at Galpbc.org or speakupforkidspbc.org or call 561-355-6224.

Make a lasting difference in the life of a child. **VOLUNTEER** to be the **VOICE of a child**.