



Make a lifelong difference for a vulnerable child. Become a Guardian ad Litem for abused and neglected children.

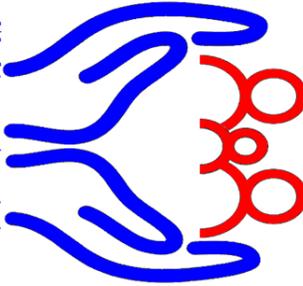
Guardian ad Litem (GAL) trainings are held for new volunteers two-three times per year.

Once you are a GAL, ongoing training is provided. GALs are invited to many informative workshops throughout the year.

If you are interested in becoming a GAL or would like more information about volunteering, please contact:

Sheila Davidson
Sheila.Davidson@co.benton.wa.us
(509) 736-2761

Washington Association of
Child Advocate Programs



**Make a difference in the life of a vulnerable child.
Volunteer to be a guardian ad litem child**

Benton/Franklin GAL Program
Benton/Franklin Juvenile Justice Center
5606 W Canal Place, Suite 106
Kennewick, WA 99336
(509) 736-2761



Guardian ad Litem
Child Advocates



**BENTON/FRANKLIN COUNTIES
GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROGRAM**

Benton/Franklin GAL Program
Benton/Franklin Juvenile Justice Center
5606 West Canal Place, Suite 106
Kennewick, WA 99336
(509) 736-2761
Sheila.Davidson@co.benton.wa.us



WHAT IS A GAL?

Guardians ad Litem are trained volunteers appointed by the court to advocate for a child who has been found dependent due to abuse or neglect.

When children are removed from their homes because of abuse or neglect, they enter the court system through a series of proceedings known as the dependency process. The court will determine what is in the child's best interest to gain some form of permanency. The GAL independently gathers information and recommends what is in the child's best interest.

The GAL meets with the child and those involved in his/her life (parents, foster parents, extended family, teachers, medical professionals, social workers, etc.) During the dependency process, the GAL advocate is often the only constant adult presence in the child's life.

WHO CAN BE A GAL?

GAL child advocates are dedicated and passionate about children. Volunteers must pass a comprehensive background check and be at least 21 years old. There is no professional or educational background requirement. GALs are trained and supported by professional staff.



BE A VOICE FOR A CHILD!

BECOME A GUARDIAN AD LITEM CHILD ADVOCATE

- Be a strong advocate for an abused/neglected child.
- Determine the most appropriate resolution for a child in the dependency process.
- Report and recommend to the court a course of action focusing on the child's well-being and best interest.
- Ensure educational and social services are working to meet the needs of the child.
- Attend court proceedings and speak on behalf of the child you represent.
- Guide the child to a safe and permanent home.

