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### TYLA and Texas Lawyers for Children Need Your Help to Protect Abused and Neglected Children

August 26, 2009

According to the Texas Department of Family and Protective Service's 2008 Databook, over 70,500 children were confirmed victims of abuse or neglect in this state. Of these, 31,000 children were placed in foster care and over 14,000 children were placed in the permanent managing conservatorship of the state.

In Texas, children who have active court cases are provided a court-appointed attorney and guardian ad litem to help protect their interests and well-being. For children who are placed under the permanent managing conservatorship of the state, the judge assigned to their case will review the children's living arrangements and needs every six months. However, since the initial abuse case is now concluded, in some counties these children are no longer provided with court-appointed advocates. Thus, there are abused and neglected children who are living under the permanent managing conservatorship of the state who need an attorney to ensure that their rights and interests are being protected.

In an effort to remedy this need, the Texas Young Lawyers Association is partnering with the Dallas-based nonprofit organization Texas Lawyers for Children to recruit and train lawyers from around the state to serve as ongoing attorney and/or guardian ad litem for these abused and neglected children. As attorney and/or guardian ad litem, these lawyers will help ensure that these children have things such as suitable living arrangements and that all of their emotional, physical and educational needs are being met.

If you are interested in serving as an attorney and/or guardian ad litem for this project or would like more information about the project, please log onto [www.texaslawyersforchildren.com](http://www.texaslawyersforchildren.com) and sign up to be a pro bono volunteer or contact Kristy Piazza at [Kristy@koonfuller.com](mailto:Kristy@koonfuller.com). A free CLE training video on how to serve as an attorney and/or guardian ad litem for this project will be posted on the TYLA website in early October 2009.

By [Kristy Piazza](#)

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