

MEDINA COUNTY COMMON PLEAS COURT

Probate and Juvenile Divisions 93 Public Square, Room 104, Medina, Ohio 44256

KEVIN W. DUNN Judge

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Medina County Probate Court Increases Ease of Access for Guardianship Training

MEDINA – In an effort to increase access to training for individuals serving as guardians for a ward, the Medina County Court of Common Pleas is utilizing an online-video sharing platform. Earlier this month, the first video for Guardianship Training was uploaded to the Court's YouTube channel.

The 45-minute training video offers the basic definitions of court terms in guardianship cases, discusses the various types of guardianship, reviews required reports, and details all necessary paperwork.

"With the COVID-19 pandemic, it made us increasingly aware that we need to utilize technology to continue operations of the Court in the most seamless way possible," Judge Kevin W. Dunn said.

The guardianship training video has been used by the Court for in-person training since 2011. In order to maintain social distancing and replace the need for in-person trainings, Deputy Clerk Karen Sliwinski and Court Investigator Nikki Shook recorded a voiceover for the video.

"We are aware that replacing the in-person training also eliminates the ability for immediate in-person discussion and questions related to the training," said Judge Dunn. "However, we have an amazing, knowledgeable staff and I encourage viewers to contact the Court with any questions or concerns."

Dunn also points out the importance of providing a guardianship video before any other videos due to the impact COVID-19 has had on the elderly and at-risk population. While the training video is only required if ordered by the Court, Judge Dunn wanted to make it available for anyone who wishes to have a refresher and view on their own, at any time.

"A major concern is how this virus is affecting our elderly population," he said. "We want to do everything we possibly can to ensure that our guardians feel supported and guided with all the tools they need to meet the Court's expectations and serve in their ward's best interest."

To date, there are 194 active minor guardianship and 650 active incompetent guardianship cases with Medina County Probate Court.

Additional videos will be recorded and uploaded to the Court's YouTube channel for public view in the future. Anyone interested in viewing these videos, can visit <u>www.MedinaProbate.org</u> or subscribe to the Medina County Probate-Juvenile Court YouTube channel.

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To learn more about the Medina County Juvenile and Probate Court or Court programs, visit our websites at www.MedinaJuvenile.org and www.MedinaProbate.org.