

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR
A VOLUNTEER APPLICATION**

Contact: Referral Intake
Volunteer Guardianship Program

Medina County Probate Court
93 Public Square
Medina, Ohio 44256
Phone: (330) 725-9703 Fax: (330) 725-9119

**YES! I AM INTERESTED IN
BECOMING A VOLUNTEER**

Please send me additional information
on the Volunteer Guardianship
Program and an application form.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
Zip _____
Phone _____
E-Mail _____

Detach and Return To:
Medina County Probate Court
Volunteer Guardianship Program
93 Public Square, Room 104
Medina, Ohio 44256

or

Fax This Form To:
(330) 725-9119



Dear Friend—

*I have no greater responsibility than
to protect and care for our precious
elderly. Volunteer guardians greatly
improve the quality of life for their
wards. Please join us in making Medina
County a caring, compassionate
community for seniors.*

*Judge Kevin W. Dunn
Medina County Probate Court*



KEVIN W. DUNN

**MEDINA COUNTY
PROBATE COURT JUDGE**



VGP

**VOLUNTEER
GUARDIANSHIP
PROGRAM**

**Medina County Probate Court
93 Public Square
Medina, OH 44256**

**Phone: (330) 725-9703
Fax: (330) 725-9119**

**Monday—Friday
8:00 AM—4:30 PM**

www.MedinaProbate.org

WHAT IS GUARDIANSHIP?

Sometimes an adult is not able to manage his or her own affairs because of advanced age or some other mental or physical disability. When a person becomes unable to care for himself or herself, it may be necessary for a guardian to assume the decision-making responsibility for the individual.

A guardian is an adult appointed by the Probate Court to protect, act, and make decisions for a person in need of a guardian. The person who needs a guardian is known as a ward. Once appointed, a guardian is answerable to the Court for providing proper care and management of the ward's affairs in the ward's best interest.

Before an individual is placed under a guardianship, an investigation is conducted. The Court then holds a hearing. If a guardian is appointed, the Court also decides the extent of the guardian's power.

WHY IS A VOLUNTEER GUARDIANSHIP PROGRAM NECESSARY?

The Medina County Probate Court believes that all persons deserve the absolute best care and concern, should they become incompetent or incapacitated.

The program is dedicated to improving the quality of life for those in need of guardianship by providing trained, qualified, volunteer legal guardians to serve as decision-makers when no less restrictive alternative to guardianship is available. Volunteer guardians are only appointed when family members are unable to serve.

Because it is often difficult to obtain guardians for needy persons, it is necessary to recruit volunteers from the community for this important function. Programs utilizing volunteers as legal guardians are



MISSION STATEMENT

The Medina County Volunteer Guardianship Program enhances the quality of life for indigent and incompetent adults of Medina County

growing throughout the nation. The Medina County Volunteer Guardianship Program is one of many such programs currently operating in Ohio.

THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE VOLUNTEER GUARDIAN

The volunteer guardian's responsibilities are to make health and placement decisions of behalf of the ward. The needs of the ward are matched with the abilities of the guardian. The guardian is a friend and advocate of the ward. In rare instances, the guardian makes financial decisions involving very small amounts of money.

Guardians can make a positive difference in the life of the individual. Guardians have the opportunity to develop caring relationships with individuals who need representatives to look out for their best interests. Benefits for volunteers include flexibility of hours, increased knowledge about medical and other issues affecting the elderly, and learning to advocate within the nursing home, hospital, and legal systems. The greatest benefit is the satisfaction of helping someone in need.

REQUIREMENTS

A volunteer guardian must be at least 21 years old and a resident of Ohio. Volunteers must have a caring heart and sincere desire to assist the elderly to live their lives with dignity.

The Court provides initial and ongoing training to all volunteers. Attorneys are available to provide free legal advice and assistance to guardians. Our staff can answer guardians' questions throughout the course of the guardianship. Interested individuals must complete an application, provide references, and complete initial training.

You can make a difference in the life of an individual who may be alone and in need of a friendly visitor or the assistance of a decision-maker.

HOW DO I REFER SOMEONE TO THE PROGRAM?

If you know of someone who may need a guardian, call the Medina County Volunteer Guardianship Program to discuss the need. To qualify for services from this program, an individual must be:

- 1. Indigent** (meeting Medicaid eligibility)
- 2. Without family to provide this service**
- 3. A resident of Medina County**

The Program Coordinator will conduct a detailed phone assessment to determine the appropriateness of the referral. Once eligibility has been established, program staff will complete an in-depth, on site assessment of the individual. A physician and the Court Investigator will also examine the individual. The ultimate decision on the appropriateness of the proposed guardianship rests with the Probate Court.