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

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

KEVIN W. DUNN
MEDINA COUNTY PROBATE COURT JUDGE
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.

WHAT IS GUARDIANSHIP?

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.

THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE VOLUNTEER GUARDIAN

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.

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 with 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.