

Guardianship Review Volunteer Program

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The Oakland County Probate Court is always looking for people interested in volunteering their time to perform an important and necessary function. The court is in need of caring and concerned adult volunteers to perform guardianship reviews. These volunteers are asked to assist in the determination of whether a guardian is providing a satisfactory level of care to children who are under the age of six and/or adults who are subject to guardianship. The volunteer must be at least 18 years of age and is asked to personally visit the minor or adult's place of residence. Volunteers are expected to have their own means of transportation.

In 2002, our volunteers performed 176 adult guardianship reviews and 44 minor guardianship reviews – approximately 16 percent of the total reviews performed that year.

In order to become a guardianship review volunteer, you need to contact our Case Management Coordinator, Carol Esher, at 248-858-0288. A written application will be forwarded to you, including a criminal history form and a record check release form. Once the paperwork has been received and your application successfully completed, the court will contact you to schedule an orientation and training session. After you have been trained, the court will appoint you to perform reviews and investigations.

Appointments are made monthly and our Coordinator makes every effort to meet any geographical or other limitations you may have. Some volunteers prefer, for instance, to only work with seniors, or aren't able to drive very far, etc. (The court does reimburse for mileage if requested.)

The court is statutorily mandated to perform these reviews and a State Court Administrative Office-approved form, #1022 (modified form PC 636), entitled "Report on Review of Guardianship of Legally Incapacitated Individual" and/or PC 655, entitled "Report for Court Review of Minor Guardianship," are documents that you would be requested to complete. These documents report your observations with regard to the ward's living environment, the ward's physical condition, the guardian's ability to adequately provide for the welfare of the ward, and your recommendations as to whether the guardianship should continue and whether the appointed guardian should continue to serve.

Historically, we have been very fortunate to have a number of attorneys volunteer their time to perform this very important function. The time commitment is not great but the service to the court and to the public is tremendous. We would also ask that you share this information with fellow attorneys, friends and clients who you know may be interested in assisting the court in this manner. Stay tuned!