

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR A
VOLUNTEER APPLICATION**

Contact: Kelly Bratton, Advisor
Volunteer Guardianship Program

Coshocton County Probate Court
426 Main Street, Coshocton, OH 43812

Phone: 740-295-7417 Fax: 740-623-6514

**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 _____

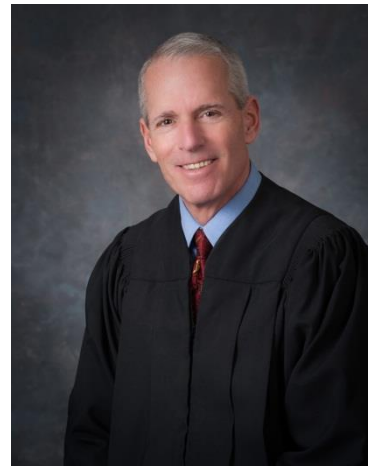
Zip _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

DETACH AND RETURN TO:

Coshocton County Probate Court
Volunteer Guardianship Program
426 Main Street
Coshocton, OH 43812



*I have no greater responsibility
than to protect and care for those in
need. Volunteer guardians greatly
improve the quality of life for their
wards. Please join us in making
Coshocton County a caring and
compassionate community for the
residents who can no longer care for
themselves.*

Judge Van Blanchard II
Coshocton County Probate Court



**COSHOCTON COUNTY
VOLUNTEER
GUARDIANSHIP
PROGRAM**

Van Blanchard II
Coshocton County
Probate Court Judge

Coshocton County Probate Court
426 Main Street
Coshocton, OH 43812

Phone: 740-622-1837
Fax: 740-623-6514

Monday – Friday 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

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

The Coshocton County Probate Court Judge Van Blanchard II initiated the Volunteer Guardianship Program to address the increasing need for court-appointed guardians. This 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 less restrictive alternatives to guardianship are not 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 growing throughout the nation. The Coshocton County Volunteer Guardianship Program is one of many such programs currently operating in Ohio.

WHAT ARE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE VOLUNTEER GUARDIAN?

The volunteer guardian's responsibilities are to make health and placement decisions on 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 issues 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 people to live their lives with dignity.

The Court provides initial and ongoing training to all volunteers. Attorneys may be available to provide free legal advice and assistance to guardians. Our staff can answer guardian's questions throughout the course of the

guardianship. Selected 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 Coshocton 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 Coshocton County

The Program Advisor 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.

