

“Wherever there is a human being, there is an opportunity for kindness” Seneca.

BECOMING A VOLUNTEER GUARDIAN

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer guardian, contact the Williams County Department of Aging and request an application. Upon turning in an application, you will be scheduled for an interview with the Coordinator and a background check will be conducted. Once these steps are completed, you will be required to attend two separate 2 1/2 hour training sessions to participate in the program.

Call the Williams County Department of Aging for dates, times, and location of the next scheduled training sessions.

OUR MISSION

The Mission of the Volunteer Guardianship Program of the Williams County Department of Aging is to enhance the quality of life for incompetent adults living in Williams County nursing homes by providing qualified legal guardians to serve as concerned, caring advocates and as surrogate decision makers.



Williams County Department of Aging

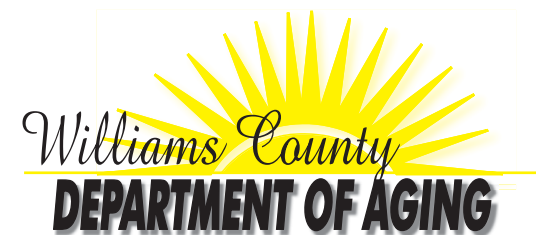
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Volunteer Guardianship Program



**Williams County
Department of Aging**

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WHO CAN BE A GUARDIAN?

To be appointed as a guardian, you must be:

- A resident of this State
- A law abiding citizen
- At least 21 years of age

WHAT IS GUARDIANSHIP?

There may come a time in the lives of some individuals in our community when, due to disease, mental illness, dementia, retardation, or substance abuse, they are no longer capable of managing themselves (their “person”), their property and assets (their “estate”), or both. Under Ohio Law, such a person is said to be incompetent. A finding of incompetency by the Probate Court will result in the appointment of a guardian to assist the “ward,” thus establishing a legal relationship called a guardianship. A Volunteer Guardian treats the ward with dignity and respect while assisting in making basic life decisions.



WHAT DOES A VOLUNTEER GUARDIAN DO?

The Volunteer Guardianship Program is only involved in Guardian of the Person cases for people who live in Long-term Care Facilities and will not be in control of or responsible for any of the ward’s finances (the estate). Some of the responsibilities of a guardian of the person are as follows:


Seeing the basic needs of the ward are being met and insuring that he or she is living and functioning in the least restrictive environment possible.

Seeking services that will help the ward reach or maintain the highest possible potential.

Authorizing or approving the provision of medical care, counseling or other treatment.

Executing documents on the ward’s behalf.

Making end of life decisions for the benefit of the ward.



WHY IS THIS PROGRAM NEEDED?

Usually a family member or close friend will be the first choice of the Court to be appointed to serve as guardian. For a variety of reasons, however, there continue to be cases where no suitable person either exists or is willing and able to serve as the guardian. In the past, the Court has turned to local attorneys to serve as the guardians in these cases. However, the number of such cases in Williams County has grown to the point that local attorneys no longer meet the demand. This program is designed to fill that void by providing a pool of screened and trained volunteers to serve in that capacity. Please consider giving of your time and talents to assist us in helping those who cannot help themselves.



For more information about becoming a volunteer guardian, please contact Lisa Blosser, LSW, Program Coordinator by calling 419-633-4317 or email lblosser@wmsco.org

