

VOLUNTEER GUARDIANSHIP

A guardian is any adult person, association, or corporation appointed by the Probate Court to assume responsibility for the care and management of the person, the estate, or both, of an incompetent person or minor child.

Why Volunteer Guardianship?

God commands it! *“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed.”* Proverbs 31:8

It addresses one of the greatest social justice issues of our time. People affected by disability are abused and neglected at a higher rate than any other people group in the world.

There is a need in every community. Every community has wards of the state that literally have no family or support network to care for them.

What types of guardianship are there?

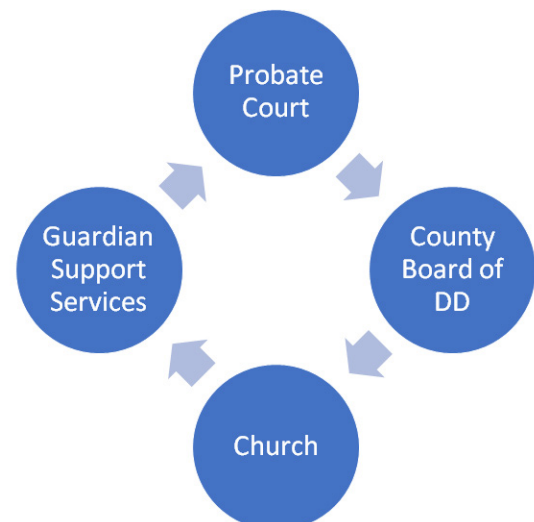
- Guardianship of Person: Controls and protects the person.
- Guardianship of Estate: Controls and protects the assets or the property of the ward.
- Guardianship of Person & Estate.

What are the responsibilities of a Volunteer Guardian?

- Visit ward once a month
- Monitor basic needs, safety, and health concerns
- Become the “go to” person for living facility
- Advocate for their wards needs
- Be a friend

How to establish a Volunteer Guardianship program at your church?

- Contact County Probate Court
 - Assess the need and current protocols
 - Ask if there is a current Guardian waiting list?
- Contact County Board of Developmental Disabilities
 - Assess the need and current protocols
- Search for local guardianship agencies
 - See what volunteer opportunities already exist in your community
 - Ask how the church can help or “be a blessing no strings attached”?
 - Partner with existing agencies to provide volunteer training
- Form a community partnership
 - County Probate Court, County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Local Guardianship Agencies, and the Church



- Educate congregation of the need
- Recruit volunteers
 - Train, match, and release to be a blessing

What if our congregation is hesitant to get involved in legal relationships with the County Probate Court?

Start with who you have! Look within your congregation and ask yourself the following question: What if everyone had someone?

It is biblical.

Galatians 6:10 states, "When we have the opportunity to do good to anyone, we should do it. But we should give special attention to those who are in the family of believers."

Everyone needs someone. Make guardianship a friendship initiative.

Find people in your existing Disability Ministry, or church, that want a friend. Make sure that people consent to this and want this. Some people want their distance and that is okay too.

Create a profile similar to what you might see on a Compassion adoption event. Here is an example:

Create a profile



- Name: Coral
- Age: 73
- Enjoys: Cross stitching, reading her bible, volunteering at church, talking on the phone with friends
- Favorite Color: Coral
- Favorite Food: Tootsie Pops
- Favorite TV Show: Walker Texas Ranger, Cop Shows, Religious TV

DISABILITY MINISTRY

No one should ever have to sit alone, spend a holiday or birthday alone, etc.

Recruit volunteers

Train, match, and release to be a blessing!

For further insight on volunteer guardianship, please watch the following video:

<https://abilityministry.com/2021/03/06/volunteer-guardians/>