

# We need you!

Not everyone in Union County has someone to help them make responsible decisions. There are senior adults or people with mental or physical incapacities living in Union County who don't have family or friends to help them in this capacity. They have been deemed to be incompetent by the Probate Court. They may be living in assisted living facilities or are still living in their homes. We need your help because our need is growing.

The Volunteer Guardian Program (VGP) recruits, screens, and trains people to be court appointed "Guardians of the Person". Volunteer guardians do not have financial responsibility for the person, but may have to coordinate community resources when needed.

People served by VGP are over 18 years of age, live in Union County, and have some type of mental or physical impairment. Whatever the reason, their ability to process information and conduct their affairs has deteriorated, they are alone, and they need your help.

*donations accepted*



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Volunteer Guardian Program**  
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## What is a guardianship?

A guardianship is a trust relationship in which one party, called a guardian, acts for an individual called the ward. The law regards the ward as incapable of managing his or her own person and/or affairs.

## What is a guardian?

A Guardian is any adult person over the age of 21, 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.

### Volunteer qualifications include:

- Be at least 21 years of age
- Have reliable transportation
- Give 5 references
- Attend an interview and complete an application.
- Undergo a background check

### Guardian Responsibilities

- Attend a hearing conducted by Probate Court
- Develop a caring relationship with the ward and visit at least twice a month.
- Participate in planning and giving consent for medical treatment and other services.
- Monitor and advocate for the rights of your ward.
- Complete the VGP quarterly reports and the court annual reports.
- Sign a one year commitment to the program.
- Attend an initial basic training class offered by VGP.

### Volunteer Support and Assistance

To assist you in carrying out your responsibilities, you will receive:

- A comprehensive training and reference manual
- On-going support, training and technical assistance from the VGP office.
- Continuing education opportunities
- Services of a volunteer attorney for legal advice concerning the guardianship.



*Volunteering as a guardian may seem like a huge responsibility; but experienced Volunteer Guardians will tell you it is well worth your time.*

## Who needs a guardian?

A guardian may be appointed by the Court for either an incompetent or minor. Incompetent is defined by statute as:

Any person who is so mentally impaired as a result of a mental or physical illness or disability, or mental retardation, or incompetent, or as a result of chronic substance abuse that they are incapable of taking proper care of themselves or their property or fails to provide for their family or other persons for whom they are charged by law to provide.

*“Be the voice that speaks for someone.”*

