



SPokane County Court House

**SUPERIOR COURT
FOR
SPOKANE COUNTY**

GUARDIANSHIP MONITORING PROGRAM

ANA KEMMERER, COORDINATOR

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MISSION STATEMENT:

The Guardianship Monitoring Program is dedicated to forging a partnership between the Spokane County Superior Court and the community by using volunteers to monitor guardianship services provided to incapacitated people in order to reduce the potential for the abuse and exploitation.

OBJECTIVES:

To reduce the potential for the abuse and exploitation of Spokane County's vulnerable citizens under guardianships, to educate guardians about their responsibilities, and to increase the community's awareness of the guardianship system and the problems faced by incapacitated people. The court utilizes trained volunteers as records researchers, financial auditors, and court visitors to research court files, perform audits, and visit incapacitated persons.

GOALS:

The Guardianship Monitoring Program was implemented to improve the Superior Court's ability to monitor guardian's handling of the ongoing care and financial affairs of Spokane County's incapacitated citizens under court-supervised guardianships. To review the guardianship court files to ensure that the required documents have been filed, to complete financial audits to ensure that the incapacitated person's estate is being managed effectively, and to visit guardians and incapacitated people to determine if the needs of the incapacitated person are being met.

GUARDIANSHIP MONITORING PROGRAM FAST FACTS:

CASELOAD:

1900+ current open cases (approx. 650 Certified Professional Guardians & approx. 1250 non-certified guardians)

(Reviewed & closed an additional 3274 since Guardianship Monitoring Program was established in November 2000)



GUARDIANSHIP AND TRUST FORMS WEBSITE:

www.spokanecounty.org/superiorcourt/guardianforms

VOLUNTEERS:

All volunteers attend training, sign confidentiality agreements, pass background checks and receive on-the-job training and supervision. Most of our volunteers are retired professionals in the community, such as nurses, teachers, accountants, and bookkeepers, to name a few. All volunteers fill out reports that are reviewed by staff and judicial officers and filed in the Court File.

Records Researchers – Review files for addresses, phone numbers, and basic information about guardianship case.

Financial Auditors - Review Guardian's Report & Accountings, verifying account balances and making sure there are no discrepancies in accounting.

Court Visitors - Observe conditions, care, and health of Incapacitated Person including meeting with guardian, caregivers, and other individuals who assist person under guardianship.

HOW ARE OBJECTIVES AND GOALS MET?

In conjunction with online training required since July 22, 2011 the Guardianship Monitoring Program offers in person training. Local family/lay guardianship training was established in January 2007 by Spokane County. This training has been held monthly ever since. Judicial Officers volunteer to teach these monthly classes. Approximately 15 potential guardians are trained monthly.

The Guardianship Monitoring Program website has all the local forms, legislative changes and general information available at any time. GMP Staff network with local agencies (Attorney General's Office, Adult Protective Services, Developmental Disabilities Administration, and many others) to educate the public of new requirements, legislative changes, and other current issues. Staff including Judicial Officers and Volunteers review, approve, and process care plans and accountings submitted by guardians.

Guardianship Monitoring Program Staff

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If you need more information, stop by our office. The Guardianship Monitoring Program is currently located on the 1st Floor, Room 103, of the Spokane County Court house.

