



The Guardian Institute

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Website: guardian-institute.org
Facebook: Guardian Institute of
Washington

GUARDIANSHIP ISSUES IN FLORIDA

I saw a news article earlier this week in the Florida Sentinel newspaper regarding a court-appointed guardian who signed a DNR against the client's wishes. It seems that the client needed, and wanted, a feeding tube in order to continue to live but the DNR prevented one from being inserted. The article in the Sentinel is:

<https://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/crime/os-ne-rebecca-fierlewards-20190719-5raxlabjnndbt16ct2qrxagpy-story.html>

The Sentinel said that the guardian, who I can only assume was a solo practice guardian, had around 100 clients. But an article in the San Francisco Chronicle says that she had 450 clients in 16 counties. It's hard to know what is accurate, as the media has a propensity to exaggerate, but even 100 clients is a huge caseload for one guardian.

We professional guardians in Washington State may sometime chafe under the regulations that this state has for professional guardians but, while there isn't a limit on the number of guardianships a professional guardian can have (with the exception of the professional guardian who has a contract with the Public Guardianship Program, where the limit is 20 per guardian), we also have laws and Standards of Practice that specifically say that guardianship clients have a say in their care and that professional guardians need to listen to family members as well. That doesn't mean that the client or family get to dictate their medical care all the time but that the professional guardian needs to weight carefully what the client and what the family wishes and sometimes bring the medical issue before a judge before making a final decision.

Mindi R. Blanchard, M.Ed., CPG

President

The Guardian Institute has been approved to be a Representative Payee Organization for Clallam and Jefferson Counties. There is still some work to do to be fully up and running but we've gotten this far in our efforts to assist the low-income individuals who need assistance with bill paying.

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Now on our web site:

Guardian-institute.org

- Contributor page
- How you can help
- How to donate
- Resources

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Administered by
Bridge Builders, Ltd.
Mindi R. Blanchard, President
PO Box 3159
212 Center Park Way
Sequim, WA 98382
info@bridgebldrs.com
(360) 683-8334

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEER GUARDIAN ADVOCATES IN CLALLAM COUNTY

There is a great need for guardians for our most vulnerable population. The Guardian Institute is looking for volunteers for the Volunteer Guardian Advocate pilot program, starting immediately. The time requirement is an average of five (5) hours each month and each volunteer is asked to commit for 3-years with optional renewal. A Volunteer Guardian Advocate is NOT a caregiver. A Volunteer Guardian Advocate is to advocate for their client's needs and appropriate wants, ensure the client is getting the benefit of all the resources he/she is qualified for, assist the client with making medical decisions or make medical decisions on the client's behalf if the client cannot do so.

Basic Requirements:

- Be at least 18 years old
- Be of sound mind
- Have no felony convictions
- Have no misdemeanor convictions involving moral turpitude
- Be a resident of Washington State
- Have completed mandatory (online) training
- Be a person who the court finds suitable
- Commitment renewal every 3-years
- Average time needed is 5-hours monthly
- 1-2 guardianship limit per volunteer

The Guardian Institute will provide:

- Arrange legal assistance as needed
- In-person training
- Provide a mentor as needed
- Assistance with Standby Guardian requirement

Contact Bridge Builders, Ltd at (360) 683-8334 or at info@bridgebldrs.com for more information.

Thinking About Tax Deductible Donations?

Please consider the Guardian Institute this year. We provide support for individuals under guardianship as well as to lay and certified professional guardians.

Funds are needed for:

- General fund
- Mini-grants for clients
- Low-interest loans for clients
- Support our website
- Legal fees for low income clients
- Education scholarships lay or professional guardians
- You designate

ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS

Client A0004—Skagit County 2019 Mini-grant awarded: \$7,200.00 Amount Expended: \$3287.50

Client A0004 is 23 years old with cognitive and medical conditions and not a US citizen. She currently lives in an Adult Family Home. The guardianship is funded through the Public Guardianship Program. She currently does not qualify for SSI or DDA services because she is not a US citizen. The guardian is working with an immigration attorney with the goal of getting her citizenship. She can work but needs a job coach and the job coach funding ran out. The Guardian Institute approved an increase in job coaching funding as the client is now “working” (volunteer more days).

Client A0006—Clallam County 2019 Mini-grant awarded: \$957.95 Amount Expended: \$957.95

A volunteer Guardian agreed to take this client. The Guardian Institute arranged for legal representation at a significantly reduced rate for the 90-day report.

If you want to apply for a mini-grant or short-term loan on behalf of a guardianship client, please contact the Guardian Institute at info@bridgebldrs.com. The Guardian Institute is willing to consider other financial requests as well.

If you are interested in donating to support these clients, feel free to send a check to the Guardian Institute, PO Box 610, Sequim, WA 98382. The Guardian Institute also accepts VISA and MasterCard. Call 360-683-8334 and a staff person will take the information.

DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

2019 Income & Expense January 1 through June 30, 2019

Income: \$39,210.00

Expense: \$34,084.66

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Guardian Institute Fall Conference—Eastern Washington

September 17th & 18th 2019

Venue: The Centennial Hotel, Spokane

Five partial Scholarships available

Confirmed Speakers/Topics

- Judge Anderson—The Uniform Guardian Act
- Lisa Malpass, attorney—TBA
- Lance Rickman—Adult Protective Services
- Mark Clark, DSHS—ETR Process and Q&A
- Darryl Lynch, Oppenheimer—ABLE Accounts vs Special needs Accounts
- Kellie Richardson — Funeral Planning & services
- Richard Perednia, attorney—TBA
- Kellie Durgan—Decision-making in the Face of Serious Illness
- Mark McEnderfer—Pathways
- Jennifer Holderman—Right of Association : During and After Life
- Alan Stanford, Small Business Development Council—TBA
- Channa Copeland, CPG—”Show Me the Money” (finding client assets) and “Family Matters” (finding lost family)
- Kim Edgar, The Bar Plan—Risk Management Tips for Guardians

National Conference on Guardianship

October 12-15, 2019

Venue: Griffin Gate Marriott, Lexington, Kentucky

*If you have a continuing education event you wish to add, please email
info@bridgebldrs.com*

