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Judiciary in Sussex County Seeks Guardianship Monitoring Volunteers

Volunteers in Sussex County are needed to help ensure that incapacitated adults under court-authorized guardianships are treated with dignity and respect. Volunteers for the Judiciary's Guardianship Monitoring Program (GMP) are vital to achieving court oversight and protection of incapacitated adults, while also assisting guardians in their sometimes difficult role.

Supreme Court Chief Justice Stuart Rabner announced the program in January 2013, saying, "We need a host of volunteers to help ensure that individuals who cannot take care of themselves are not taken advantage of by others. Please step forward to help us achieve that noble aim."

Volunteers will spend six to 12 hours every month working in the Sussex County Surrogate's Office during business hours. Volunteers will help establish a statewide guardianship system and review documents from guardians regarding the physical and/or financial well-being of the adult deemed incapacitated by the court.

All volunteers must be comfortable using computers and should have some experience or interest in reading and understanding legal or financial documents. Individuals who can focus and capture pertinent details of filings and integrate these into the court software or people with a background or experience in accounting, budgeting, finance, or other related areas are encouraged to apply. Training is provided.

GMP volunteers must be 18 years of age or older and must agree to comply with the Code of Conduct for Judiciary Volunteers. They are asked to commit to serve for at least one year. Candidates will be interviewed for details about their experience and background. Selected candidates will be fingerprinted and must pass a criminal history background check.

Interested candidates can access the volunteer application at www.njcourts.com/guardianship. The completed application should be submitted to the address listed for the appropriate county at www.njcourts.com/volunteer.

Questions can be sent to njguardianship.mailbox@judiciary.state.nj.us.