

Volunteer Guardian

Frequently Asked Questions



What is being a Volunteer Guardian all about?

Guardianship is a legally defined process whereby a person (consumer) has been declared by the Mobile County Probate Court to be incapacitated. A guardian is appointed by the Probate Court for the care and management of the consumer.

What are the qualifications for being a Volunteer Guardian?

You must be 21 or older, have computer access and transportation, have the ability to learn basic legal and medical information, can complete a background check and have at least 4-6 hours per month to spare. Our Volunteer Guardians include college students, homemakers, nurses, CNAs, social workers and retired Seniors.

What can you tell me about consumers?

All wards are cognitively incapacitated, a majority are physically handicapped, ages range from 21 to 96 (with the majority being senior citizens), most are classified as low income, and they come from a variety of ethnic backgrounds.

What decisions do I have to make for my consumer?

You will make decisions related to basic needs (such as food and housing), medical treatments/care and end of life care.

What kinds of paperwork will I have to do?

Volunteer Guardians will complete an initial Guardian Care Plan, and Probate Court requires an Annual Report.

What kinds of activities will I engage in with my consumer?

You may need to take your ward shopping, attend doctor's appointments and visit your ward at home to make sure they are safe and healthy.

Do I have to handle the financial matters of my ward?

No. The Mobile County Probate Court will appoint a Conservator to handle all financial matters.

How much of my time will be involved if I agree to volunteer?

You will spend about four to six hours per month. This time could be a combination of telephone and in-person contacts. Initially, you will participate in a two hour orientation session. Specialized training is offered every month, but can be completed - at your own pace - on the Via Center Volunteer Guardian webpage: [Volunteer Guardian Program](#)

What do I do if I run into a problem after the relationship with the ward begins?

Should a problem, concern or question arise at any time during the guardianship, you can contact the Volunteer Guardian Coordinator on the 24 hour hotline: 251.219.8477.