Volunteer Support and Technical Assistance

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

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

• To be a Volunteer Guardian may seem like a huge responsibility; but experienced Volunteer Guardians will tell you it is the opportunity of a lifetime. Benefits to you as a volunteer include:
  
  Knowledge of nursing homes, medical procedures, and hospitals and hospice.

  Interaction with a variety of professionals including doctors, nurses, therapists and social workers.

  The satisfaction of enhancing the quality of life of another human being.

Contacting VGP:

All Counties: 1-800-589-7277
614-645-1928 or 614-645-3883

Address: 3776 South High St., Columbus, OH 43207
Web: www.coaaa.org/vgp

VGP is Partially Funded by:

Volunteer Guardian Program
Serving Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Licking and Pickaway counties

Enhancing the Quality of Life

“I am the voice that speaks for her when she shakes her head no. I am the eyes that keep a look out for her care and safety. I am the ears that listen and explain things to her so she can understand. Mary is my friend and I hope - in her own way - she thinks the same of me.”

- Volunteer Guardian

The Volunteer Guardian Program is a member of the Ohio Guardianship Association & the National Guardianship Association and adheres to the NGA standard of practice.
Not everyone has someone

It is often assumed that everyone has someone who will take care of them when they are unable to care for themselves.

The fact is, not everyone has someone willing to be responsible for decision making. There are adults with mental incapacities in Central Ohio who do not have family or friends to assist them in this way. The need is growing.

The Volunteer Guardian Program

The Volunteer Guardian Program (VGP) at the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging is recruiting, screening, and training people to be court appointed “Guardians of the Person.” These guardians serve individuals who have no family able or willing to assist them, and whose ability to make decisions is diminished. Volunteer guardians do not have financial responsibility for the person.

People served by VGP are over 18 years of age, live in nursing homes or other group-care settings, and have some type of mental impairment. Whatever the reason, their ability to process information and conduct their affairs has deteriorated, they are alone, and they need your help.

Training and Matching Process

This process is an important one and may occur quickly or it may take several months. In order to ensure a successful match:

- You must attend a pre-service training program and sign an agreement, making a one-year commitment to the program. To maintain certification, you must attend a minimum of 3 hours of continuing education programs a year on guardianship topics.
- You are encouraged to describe the type of person for whom you would like to serve as guardian, i.e. whether the individual is able to walk, communicate with you, is aware or unaware or has complex medical issues, etc.
- You can meet the person prior to approval, to make sure that you are comfortable with the match.

Guardian Responsibilities

After you are properly matched with the right person for you, you will:

- Attend a hearing conducted by the Probate Court
- Develop a nurturing relationship with the person and visit twice a month
- Participate in planning, giving consent for medical treatment and other services
- Enhance the quality of your person’s life, monitor and protect their rights
- You will have hands-on staff support from a case manager

Volunteer Qualifications Include:

- Be at least 21 years of age
- Have reliable transportation
- Give references
- Attend an interview, and
- Undergo a background check
- Complete training