
Q. What resources are available to me as a volunteer guardian?

A. You will be partnered with a Mentor who has extensive experience dealing with the eligible individuals.

VLP Guardianship Coordinator will provide an attorney to answer any legal questions.

VLP Guardianship Coordinator will provide on going support and training.

Q. If I am interested, what do I do next?

A. Contact The Volunteer Center and at (260) 424-3505. A form will need to be completed for a background check and so that you are accorded protection under their liability insurance policy. Once those forms are completed, you will be put in touch with Volunteer Lawyer Program, Guardianship Coordinator, and a meeting will be arranged to further discuss your interests in this program.

Q. Where can I get more information?

A. Contact The Volunteer Center at 260.424.3505 or online at www.volunteerfortwayne.org/

Contact The Volunteer Lawyer Program, Guardianship Coordinator, at 260.407.0917 or vlpnei.org

Volunteer Lawyer Program of Northeast Indiana, Inc. (“VLP”)

MISSION: To provide equal access to the justice system for low-income and disadvantaged residents in nine northeast Indiana counties. The VLP strives to treat all people with dignity and respect, to provide equal access to civil legal services and to create partnerships with the legal community, social service agencies and the community-at-large to extend legal services to those most in need and least able to afford them.

The Volunteer Center @ RSVP

MISSION: To serve its community by providing a corps of volunteers to fill important community roles, and to provide for its volunteers meaningful opportunities for community service relevant to their skills, abilities and interests. To agencies, The Volunteer Center provides recruitment and matching of exceptional volunteers for both long-term, short-term and sporadic event needs. For volunteers, the Volunteer Center undertakes to provide meaningful and rewarding volunteer positions that utilize their skills, passions and talents for their personal cause.



**VOLUNTEER
GUARDIAN
SERVICES**

**Volunteer Lawyer
Program of Northeast
Indiana, Inc.**

**927 South Harrison Street
Fort Wayne, IN 46802**

260.407.0917

VLP GUARDIANSHIP SERVICE ELIGIBILITY

Financial Eligibility: The VLP Guardianship Services accepts individuals/families whose gross income is less than 200% of federal poverty level guidelines.

For a family of four, this means that their total income must not exceed \$3,725.00 per month.

For an individual over whom guardianship is being sought the total income for that individual may not exceed \$1,815.00 per month.

Client Eligibility: Persons diagnosed with a developmental disability, autism spectrum disorder, mental illness, mental impairment by reason of dementia (including Alzheimer's disease) and/or traumatic brain injury are eligible for this program. Clients are accepted into this program if they are already in – or in the process of going to – a supervised residential setting or live with their family.

VOLUNTEER GUARDIANSHIP SERVICES QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q. What is this program all about?

A. The Volunteer Lawyer Program (“VLP”) is teaming up with The Volunteer Center in an effort to find individuals willing to volunteer to become guardians for a very vulnerable segment of our society. Many of the eligible clients are living in group homes, supervised residential settings or nursing homes. They also lack caring family members to make basic life decisions and give informed consent for medical treatment.

Q. As a volunteer guardian, would I be responsible for managing the money or other property of the individual over whom I am appointed guardian?

A. No. Volunteer guardians are responsible for the individual, not the estate. In most instances, those who are eligible for VLP services have very few assets.

Q. What would my duties as a volunteer guardian be?

A. This may vary depending on the circumstances of the individual over whom guardianship is obtained. Nonetheless, here are some general guidelines:

- ▶ Become acquainted with the person over whom you have responsibility and maintain contact with that person in an effort to understand his or her capabilities, disabilities, limitations, needs, opportunities and physical and mental health.
 - ▶ Work with the VLP Guardianship Coordinator to formulate and file with the court an inventory of the individual's personal property.
 - ▶ Work with physicians and other medical practitioners to make medical decisions on behalf of the ward.
 - ▶ Keep in contact with the ward as needed but not less than once a month. Generally, time spent with the ward will average 5-10 hours per month.
 - ▶ Provide the group homes, supervised residential settings or nursing homes phone numbers at which you may be reached.
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