

## GMP Volunteer Requirements

- GMP volunteer work is done in the county surrogate's office during business hours, generally Monday to Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.
- Volunteers are expected to contribute about 6 to 12 hours a month to the GMP. Schedules are flexible and will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.
- GMP volunteers must have some computer skills and should have some experience and an interest in reading and understanding basic financial documents. Program-specific training is provided for all GMP volunteers.
- Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age and are asked to commit to serve for at least one year.
- All Judiciary volunteers must be fingerprinted, pass a background check, and must accept and comply with the Code of Conduct for Judiciary Volunteers.
- Qualified candidates will be interviewed for more details about their qualifications and the volunteer functions.

For more information about local volunteer opportunities with the Guardianship Monitoring Program, visit:

[njcourts.com/guardianship](http://njcourts.com/guardianship)



Stuart Rabner  
Chief Justice

Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.  
Acting Administrative Director of the Courts

August 2015

## NEW JERSEY JUDICIARY

# Guardianship Monitoring Program



**“The Guardianship Monitoring Program is a volunteer initiative that grows out of the need to ensure that friends, neighbors and family members who are incapacitated are treated with the dignity and integrity they deserve.”**  
Chief Justice Stuart Rabner

# New Jersey Judiciary Guardianship Monitoring Program

## What is the New Jersey Judiciary Guardianship Monitoring Program?

The New Jersey Judiciary Guardianship Monitoring Program (GMP) is a comprehensive statewide volunteer-based court program established to monitor guardians in their handling of the affairs of incapacitated individuals.



Monitoring and oversight of guardianships help identify, address, prevent, and deter activities that are harmful to incapacitated

individuals.

Trained GMP volunteers use the Guardianship Monitoring System (GMS), a computer application comprised of a statewide guardianship database and a report review tool, to track and follow up on guardianship files. The volunteers' work ensures that guardians comply with statutory and court-ordered requirements to file documents and reports and manage the affairs of incapacitated individuals effectively.

## What is a guardianship?

A guardianship is established when a Superior Court, Probate Part judge declares a person incapacitated and appoints a guardian to oversee the incapacitated individual's well-being and/or financial affairs.

Incapacitated individuals are adults impaired by mental illness or deficiency, physical illness or disability, chronic use of drugs, chronic alcoholism, developmental disability or other cause, to the extent that they cannot govern themselves and manage their affairs.

## How many adults are affected by guardianships?

Approximately 2,400 adult guardianship actions were filed in New Jersey in 2012. Guardianship records are maintained at the county level. The number of active guardianships statewide is presently unknown.

Guardianships for elderly citizens suffering from dementia, Alzheimer's disease or other debilitating conditions can last 10 years or more. Guardianships for developmentally disabled young adults can last as long as 50 years or longer.

## What do GMP volunteers do ?

The Judiciary is recruiting GMP volunteers to assist the courts with examining documents contained in guardianship files and entering information about the guardianships into GMS. Volunteers also help obtain current information about incapacitated persons and their guardians and update GMS records.



Data that volunteers enter into GMS is used to build the statewide GMS database and to verify that guardians comply with reporting requirements.

Volunteers also examine inventories and annual reports filed by guardians. These documents provide the court with information about the affairs of incapacitated persons to ensure that they are being handled properly and in their best interest.

Volunteers use GMS to record their findings, including errors or discrepancies in guardians' reports, and to make recommendations about follow-up action that court staff or Probate Part judges should take.