

PRESS RELEASE

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Burlington Vicinage Seeks Court Volunteers

The Burlington Vicinage seeks volunteers to serve on the Child Placement Review Board (CPR), Parenting Mediation Program, Supervised Visitation Program, and Juvenile Conference Committee (JCC). Citizen volunteers assist the court in providing vital services to the community.

CPR Board members are appointed by the assignment judge and trained to review cases of children placed outside of their homes by the New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency. Volunteers review case plans, interview parents, foster parents, and others involved in the case, and make recommendations to the court.

Parenting Mediation Program volunteers use mediation techniques to help parents or guardians develop the parenting plan, particularly in any family action in which the parties do not agree to a custody or visitation arrangement. Selected volunteers are required to take an 18-hour basic mediation training and an additional 22-hour parenting mediation training. The training will begin at the end of February.

The Supervised Visitation Program provides a safe environment for children and non-custodial parents to develop or re-establish familial relationships. Volunteers monitor all visits between non-custodial parents and their children and prepare reports for the court so that a determination can be made about visitation status.

JCC is a court-appointed committee composed of six to nine adult and youth volunteers appointed by a family division judge to hear and decide matters involving alleged juvenile offenders. The JCC considers the facts in the case and makes recommendations to the judge for a resolution that would aid in the juvenile's rehabilitation.

Youth volunteers for the JCC program must be between the ages of 14 and 18. Parental consent is required. Applicants are subject to a juvenile record check. Youth volunteers could be eligible for community service credit hours based upon approval from their high schools.

Applicants are trained prior to beginning their volunteer services. Interested candidates can access the volunteer application at www.njcourts.com/volunteer. Applicants are subject to a screening process and a criminal background check, including fingerprinting.

For more information about the programs and application process, contact Frank Carr, coordinator of volunteer services, 609-518-2511 or frank.carr@judiciary.state.nj.us

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