

KENNETH W. KERWIN
TRIAL COURT ADMINISTRATOR

ANN MARIE FLEURY, ESQ.
OMBUDSMAN

www.njcourts.com • phone: 732-288-7212

For further information, contact:
Sonal Pushko, EEO/AA Officer
732-288-7231

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Ocean Vicinage Seeks Guardianship Monitoring Volunteers

The Ocean Vicinage is seeking volunteers to serve in the Guardianship Monitoring Program. The New Jersey Judiciary Guardianship Monitoring Program (GMP) is a comprehensive statewide volunteer-based court program established to monitor guardians appointed to handle the affairs of incapacitated individuals. Monitoring and oversight of guardianships help identify, address, prevent, and deter activities that are harmful to incapacitated individuals.

Chief Justice Stuart Rabner announced the program in January 2013, saying, “We need a host of volunteers to help ensure that individuals who cannot take care of themselves are not taken advantage of by others. Please step forward to help us achieve that noble aim.”

Trained GMP volunteers use 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.

Volunteers will work approximately three to 12 hours each week. Hours are available on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Ocean County Surrogate’s Office in Toms River.

Volunteers must be comfortable using computers and should have some experience or interest in reading and understanding legal or financial documents. Individuals who can discern and capture pertinent details of filings and integrate these into the court software and those with a background or experience in accounting, budgeting, finance or other related areas are encouraged to apply.

Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age and agree to comply with the Judiciary Code of Conduct for Volunteers. Individuals will go through an interview process and fingerprinting and must satisfactorily pass a criminal history background check process. Selected individuals will receive a 2-day classroom training session and two days of hands-on training once they are appointed to the program.

Candidates who are interested in obtaining an application or have questions can contact Sonal Pushko, Ocean Vicinage EEO/AA officer at sonal.pushko@judiciary.state.nj.us or 732-288-7231.

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