

AGS **QUALITY INDICATORS**

- **AGS** is a member of the National Guardianship Association and the Ohio Guardianship Association.
- **AGS** operates and practices under the Standards of Practice of the National Guardianship Association.
- **AGS** has a registered guardian who supervises an experienced, trained staff of guardians and guardian assistants.
- **AGS** has an Ethics Committee that meets quarterly. Our ethicist is also available for emergencies.
- **AGS** has the sole contract to provide Guardian of Person services to indigent wards, as determined by Cuyahoga County Probate Court.
- **AGS** has a 14-year history, serving as Guardian of Person for over 800 wards.

MISSION

Adult Guardianship Services enhances the quality of life of indigent, incompetent adults in Cuyahoga County by providing legal guardians to serve as concerned, caring advocates and surrogate decision-makers.

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www.agscleveland.org

A PROGRAM OF LUTHERAN METROPOLITAN MINISTRY



*Making
decisions
that enhance
the lives of
others.*



ADVOCACY • VOLUNTEERISM • JUSTICE • INTEGRITY
DIGNITY • COMPASSION • COLLABORATION • SHALOM

AGS guardians undertake the legal responsibility of making major life decisions and agree to advocate on behalf of their wards.

GUARDIAN SERVICES

- Determine a ward's suitable and appropriate living arrangements and arrange for successful relocation.
- Visit monthly or more regularly, as needed, to be assured of the ward's health and well-being.
- Identify and coordinate the necessary and appropriate providers of direct services, such as case managers, nurses or nursing aides, and cleaning and/or home repair services.
- Attend and participate actively in care conferences and diligently ensure that proper care is always provided in a timely manner.
- Approve or deny authorization for medical treatment, made on the basis of informed consent.
- Available on-call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for emergencies.
- Assist with pre-paid funeral planning.
- Communicate regularly with the ward's attorney or trust officer.

GUARDIAN PRINCIPLES

- **AGS** guardians share the qualities of compassion, commitment, honesty and integrity.
- **AGS** guardians treat their wards as individuals with needs and rights, with a desire to help those who cannot help themselves.
- **AGS** guardians guide their wards using substituted judgment and best interest standards so the ward may achieve and maintain the highest level of independence.
- **AGS** guardians determine what is least intrusive, most normalizing, and ultimately, best for the ward.

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Benefits to Attorneys/Trust Officers

- With **AGS** acting at Guardian of Person, you can focus on Guardian of Estate/financial issues.
- You are freed from time-consuming and often complicated social work responsibilities of Guardian of Person, resulting in a more satisfied ward or family.
- Your clients/wards are served using the best practices in the industry.
- Using **AGS** Guardian of Person services provides a risk management tool to reduce your own liability.

Referrals

AGS accepts referrals from attorneys, trust officers, hospitals, nursing homes, caregivers, and individuals from the community. To make a referral please call 216-696-1132, extension 131.

Assessments

AGS assesses the perceived need for guardianship, fully aware that any guardianship infringes upon and restricts an individual's rights and is subject to probate court approval.

Fees

Private pay clients are billed monthly on an hourly basis.

Funding

AGS is a non-profit organization. To serve our indigent clients, funding is also received from the Cuyahoga County Probate Court, Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging, foundations, local hospitals and nursing homes, and donations from individuals and churches.