

AGS QUALITY INDICATORS

- **AGS** staff is comprised of 14 guardians. Ten are Registered Guardians and three are also Licensed Social Workers.
- **AGS** operates according to the Standards of Practice of the National Guardianship Association.
- **AGS** has the sole contract with the Cuyahoga County Probate Court to provide Guardian of Person services to indigent wards.
- **AGS** staff participates in professional development.
- **AGS** has an Ethics Committee that meets quarterly. Our ethicist is also available for emergency consultations.
- **AGS** is a member of the National Guardianship Association and the Ohio Guardianship Association.
- **AGS** has served as Guardian of Person for over 1,000 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.

To learn more about the AGS private pay program visit our website at
www.agscleveland.org



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216.696.1132 • Fax 216.696.1153

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A PROGRAM OF LUTHERAN METROPOLITAN MINISTRY

ADVOCACY

VOLUNTEERISM

JUSTICE

INTEGRITY

DIGNITY

COMPASSION

COLLABORATION

SHALOM



**Serving Wards
through Partnerships**

AGS guardians undertake the legal responsibility of making major medical decisions and advocating on behalf of their wards.

GUARDIAN SERVICES

- Identify and coordinate appropriate providers of direct services, such as case management, nursing, or home care.
- Visit monthly or as needed, to be assured of the ward's health and well-being.
- Determine a ward's suitable and appropriate living arrangements and plan for successful relocation.
- Participate actively in care conferences and diligently ensure that proper care is provided in a timely manner.
- Secure benefits such as Medicare, VA, Medicaid.
- Approve or deny authorization for medical treatment, made on the basis of informed consent.
- Assist with pre-need funeral planning.
- Available on-call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for emergencies.
- 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. They advocate for those who can no longer speak for themselves.
- **AGS** guardians operate under the ethical principles of substituted judgment and best interest, so wards may achieve and maintain the highest level of independence.
- **AGS** guardians choose what is least intrusive, most normalizing, and ultimately, best for the ward.

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Benefits to Attorneys/Trust Officers

- Using **AGS** Guardian of Person services provides a valuable risk management tool to reduce your liability.
- 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 responsibilities of Guardian of Person.
- Your clients/wards are served by Registered Guardians who practice according to the Model Code of Ethics established by the National Guardianship Association.

Referrals

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

Assessments

AGS assesses the perceived need for guardianship by conducting a face-to-face interview with the potential ward. **AGS** is 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 provided by the Cuyahoga County Probate Court, United Way, Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging, the Cuyahoga County Community Mental Health Board, the Department of Senior and Adult Services of Cuyahoga County, foundations, local hospitals and nursing homes, and donations.