

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 14-04**

**Establishment of a Program for Adding Approved Non-Lawyer Professionals to the
Probate Division Fiduciary Panel for Appointment as Guardians**

WHEREAS, the Probate Division of the District of Columbia Superior Court appoints limited and permanent guardians for persons who have been found incapacitated and have become wards of the Court, and the Court may appoint any individual who has been appointed to the Probate Fiduciary Panel to serve as a guardian; and

WHEREAS, the Probate Division of the Superior Court is responsible for monitoring the well-being of its wards; and

WHEREAS, currently the only individuals eligible for appointment are attorneys who are members of the District of Columbia Bar; and

WHEREAS, wards in intervention cases suffer from physical, mental, and developmental conditions, and frequently require assistance obtaining housing and other placements, medical and mental health care, and social services, and would benefit from assistance by persons who are not attorneys who are qualified professionals with expertise to address their needs; and

WHEREAS, qualified professionals in specialized fields such as nursing, occupational therapy, and geriatric social work are well-suited to address the needs of the Court's wards; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, the District of Columbia Guardianship Group^{*} – a consortium of organizations and individuals with knowledge and expertise in issues associated with aging, the elderly, and the disabled – identified a group of fourteen persons who have expertise in working with the aging and disabled; and

WHEREAS, the persons identified by the Guardianship Group are professionals who are licensed geriatric social workers, advanced practice nurses, or occupational therapists, and who are private practitioners, contractors, or retired professionals who are able to make the time commitments required of guardians; and

WHEREAS, the Presiding Judge of the Probate Division has reviewed the qualifications of the professionals recommended by the Guardianship Group and found that their services would benefit the wards of the Court; and

^{*} Representatives of the following organizations are members of the Steering Committee of the District of Columbia Guardianship Group: Iona Senior Services, the ABA Commission on Law and the Aging, District of Columbia Adult Protective Services; the D.C. Bar Estates, Trusts, and Probate Section, and the ABA Public Policy Institute.

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