

Guardianship Assistance Program

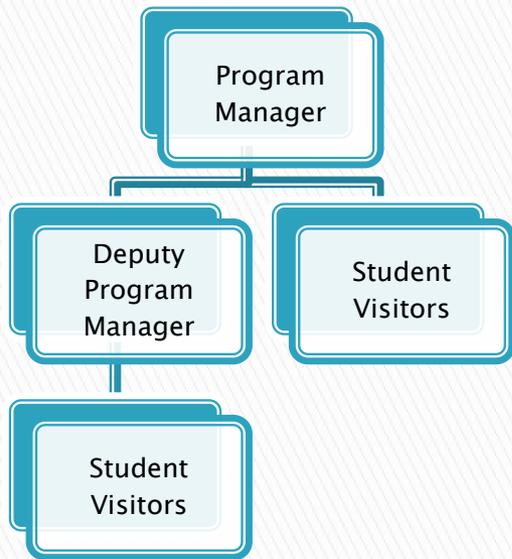


Another Look at Guardianship to Protect At-Risk Adults Conference
June 12, 2015

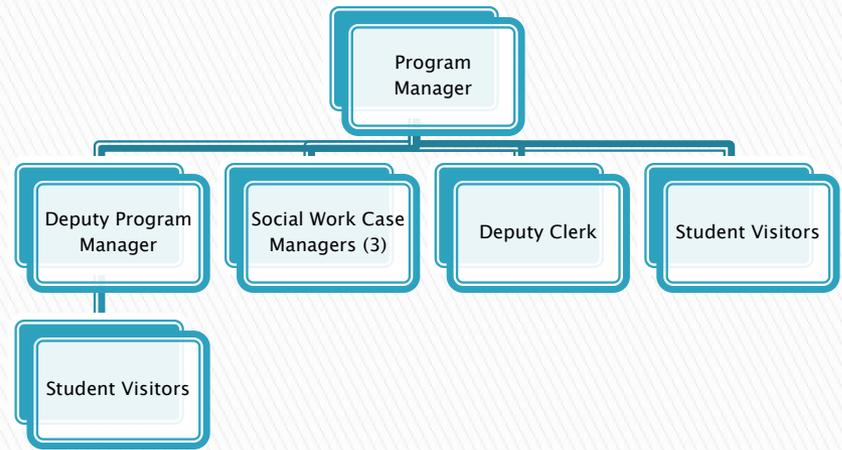
Mission of GAP

- ▶ The Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP) was established in the Office of the Register of Wills in the Probate Division of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia in August 2008. The program was created to assist the Court in fulfilling its mandate to ensure the well-being of persons under guardianship, known as “wards”. In pursuit of this goal, GAP:
 - reviews semiannual guardianship reports,
 - provides education and information to guardians, persons under guardianship, and members of the public, and
 - collaborates with local government agencies, non-profit agencies, and the private sector to increase access to services.
- ▶ GAP does not monitor conservatorships or the financial situation of the ward. When financial concerns arise during the in-depth review process, GAP refers these issues to the Auditing Branch of the Probate Division for further review. Otherwise, callers are referred to Auditing or encouraged to consider use of the Petition Post Appointment process.

GAP Structure



Current



Future

Changes due to new legislation

- ▶ Statement of Criminal History
- ▶ MPD Background Check
- ▶ FBI fingerprint scan and background check
- ▶ Three (3) year periodic reviews of cases filed after January 1, 2015 by a licensed social worker.
- ▶ Reports will include updated medical/psychological reports.
- ▶ Report will be personally served on person under guardianship.
- ▶ Report will be accompanied by a statement of rights advising recipient that he or she may file a written statement objecting to the report and its recommendations, and may file a petition post appointment at any time to modify or terminate the guardianship.
- ▶ Court will hold a hearing if the person under guardianship or case reviewer requests or recommends modification or termination, or the court determines a hearing is otherwise appropriate.

WINGS

- ▶ Working Interdisciplinary Network of Guardianship Stakeholders
- ▶ What is it? How did GAP become involved? How will it benefit persons under guardianship?
- ▶ Steering Committee developed
- ▶ Stakeholder meetings (2) planned
- ▶ Initiatives:
 - Training on least restrictive alternatives and assessing capacity for guardians, visitors, examiners, mediators, and bar members.
 - Public education– user friendly videos and brochures.
 - Guardianship complaint project.
- ▶ Annual reports to the Chief Judge regarding WINGS activities.

Resources

- ▶ Probate Division– Intervention Proceedings (Adult Guardianship)
http://www.dccourts.gov/internet/public/aud_probate/intervention.jsf
- ▶ Probate Division– Brochures & Videos
http://www.dccourts.gov/internet/legal/aud_probate/brochvideo.jsf#int
- ▶ Elder Mediation Program (DC Superior Court)
http://www.dccourts.gov/internet/legal/aud_probate/eldermediationlegal.jsf
- ▶ DC Council Legislation
<http://dccouncil.us/legislation>
- ▶ Trends in State Courts– Special Focus: Juvenile Justice and Elder Issues (WINGS)
http://www.ncsc.org/~media/Microsites/Files/Future%20Trends%202014/Wings-Court%20Community%20Partnerships_Erica%20Wood.ashx

Questions & Answers

For more information on GAP, please contact:

Aisha Ivey-Nixon, LICSW, LCSW-C
Program Manager
202-879-9407

Sonya Roundtree-McClain, LICSW
Deputy Program Manager
202-879-9452