

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 11-02**

Mental Habilitation Advocate Program

WHEREAS, the Court is required to appoint qualified mental retardation advocates (hereinafter referred to as “mental habilitation advocates”) pursuant to the Mentally Retarded Citizens Constitutional Rights and Dignity Act of 1978, D.C. Code §§ 7-1301.02 et seq., to assist intellectually disabled persons who admit themselves to facilities, or whose commitment is sought, under this statute; and

WHEREAS, the Court previously obtained volunteer advocates for appointment through the recruitment efforts of the now defunct District of Columbia Mental Retardation Advocates Association, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, the Court recognizes the continued importance of appointing mental habilitation advocates in a manner that will result in providing services and support for intellectually disabled individuals who come before the Court; and

WHEREAS, in order to continue the existing volunteer advocates program, additional personnel and guidelines for the program will be necessary;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is by the Court,

ORDERED, that the volunteer advocates program shall be administered as the Mental Habilitation Advocate Program in accordance with the attached memorandum, which provides a detailed description of the program; and it is further

ORDERED, that operation of the Mental Habilitation Advocate Program shall begin on January 10, 2011 and will encompass all prior referrals to the existing volunteer advocates program and new referrals.

SO ORDERED.

BY THE COURT

Date: January 7, 2011

/s/

**Lee F. Satterfield
Chief Judge**

Copies to:

Judges

Senior Judges

Magistrate Judges

Executive Officer

Clerk of the Court

Division Directors

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