

Community Service Organizations



Alzheimers'Dementia Jewish Family Services	908-352-8375
Care to Caregivers	800-424-2494
Retired Senior Volunteers (RSVP)	908-352-8375
Sage Eldercare	908-273-5550
Sheriff's Department	908-527-4450
Union County Division on Aging	908-527-4866
WISE Center of Union	908-687-2995
UC Paratransit System	908-241-8300
Community Access Homeshare program	908-376-6148
Union County Department of Human Services	908-527-4808
Union County Mental Health Board	908-527-4846
Union County Freeholder Board	908-527-4100
Union County Parks & Recreation	908-527-4910

**James S. LaCorte, Surrogate of Union County
Union County Courthouse**

2 Broad Street

Elizabeth, New Jersey 07207

Phone: 908-527-4280

Fax: 908-351-9212

Web: ucnj.org/surrogate



The Union County Surrogate's Court

James S. LaCorte, Surrogate

A Guide for Guardians of Incapacitated Persons

Recent changes in the Court Rules require that Guardians report yearly on the well being of those in their care. Parents, children, brothers, sisters and just plain friends are caregivers to those who are most vulnerable. In that respect we hope this brochure helps you with your responsibilities.

James S. LaCorte

Most guardians are directed to report annually, at or before the anniversary date of the Judgment of Incapacity, so most reports will cover a 12-month period. Strict adherence to this time period may be difficult depending on the timing of the guardianship judgment and the nature of the guardianship reporting .

Court appointed legal guardians make decisions for incapacitated people about personal and medical care, meals, transportation, and even where a person lives. Guardians control assets, manage budgets, pay debts, and make all financial and investment decisions for the people they assist.

The Courts are responsible for ensuring that guardians understand the significant authority and responsibility of guardianship, and for monitoring the health and well-being along with the finances of every incapacitated person under the care of a legal guardian. It is the only way to eliminate opportunities for abuse. The New Jersey Judiciary provides guardianship support through its *Guardian Essentials* and the *Guardianship Monitoring Program*

The Judiciary Guardianship Monitoring Program

What is a Guardianship and what are my responsibilities?

A guardianship is established when a Superior Court, Probate Part judge declares a person incapacitated and appoints a guardian to oversee the incapacitated individual's well-being and/or financial affairs.

Incapacitated individuals are adults impaired by mental illness or deficiency, physical illness or disability, chronic use of drugs, chronic alcoholism, developmental disability or other cause, to the extent that they cannot govern themselves and manage their affairs

The New Jersey Judiciary Guardianship Monitoring Program

The New Jersey Judiciary Guardianship Monitoring Program (GMP) is a comprehensive statewide volunteer-based court program established to monitor guardians in their handling of the affairs of incapacitated individuals.

Monitoring and oversight of guardianships help identify, address, prevent, and deter activities that are harmful to incapacitated individuals.

Trained GMP volunteers use the Guardianship Monitoring System (GMS), a computer application comprised of a statewide guardianship database and a report review tool, to track and follow up on guardianship files. The volunteers' work ensures that guardians comply with statutory and court-ordered requirements to file documents and reports and manage the affairs of incapacitated individuals effectively.

* <http://www.judiciary.state.nj.us/guardianship/index.html>

TO OBTAIN YEARLY REPORTING FORMS GO TO:

<http://www.judiciary.state.nj.us/forms.html>

11789 Report of Well-Being

11799 Guardian Inventory

County Programs to Assist you in your everyday life



The Surrogate's Court

The Surrogate of Union County is the office responsible as the liaison between the courts and you. My official title is Surrogate and Deputy Clerk of the Superior Court, Chancery Division, Probate Part, Union County. When you started this process, it was my office that filed in the papers and acted as Clerk between you, your attorney and the Judge. It is our office that houses all the related documents for your case. My office prepares all the papers for you to qualify after the judgment and we monitor the cases under our jurisdiction. Although the Judicial Guardianship Monitoring program began in 2012, the Office of the Surrogate has been conducting their own program since the 1990's. We are very proud of our accomplishments and especially thankful to those who volunteer as court monitors. We suggest you look at some of the great services provided by the County at the official web site at www.ucnj.org

Union County Department of Human Services

The County of Union offers valuable services to the residents of this county. Programs from the Division on Aging and Disability have numerous resources to help you cope during stressful times. For more information call: 908-527-4870.



www.ucnj.org

Sheriff's Department

Project Lifesaver

This program is a valuable tool for law enforcement to assist in the locating of lost or wandering individuals who suffer from Alzheimer's Disease and related dementia disorders such as Down Syndrome and Autism. The facts are that over 5,000,000 people in the U.S.A. have Alzheimer's Disease. That number will triple by 2050. Well over 50% of these people will wander or become lost and possibly put themselves at serious risk of injury or even death.