

# Volunteer Guardians

*Make a big difference*

*in a small amount of time*



Some people don't have anyone to help them make important life decisions. A **Volunteer Guardian** is a trained, caring advocate and substitute decision maker. As a Volunteer Guardian, you will make a real difference in someone's life.

While being a Volunteer Guardian is an important responsibility and requires your availability, most find that it can easily fit into their everyday lifestyle.

A Volunteer Guardian serves as the legally-appointed guardian for an adult with a developmental disability. The Volunteer Guardian acts in the best interest of the assigned person, serving as an advocate and substitute decision-maker in the care and management of the person's medical and personal affairs. Volunteer Guardians are appointed by a county probate court. Cuyahoga DD's general counsel guides Volunteer Guardians every step of the way - - through the legal process, formal appointment and anytime there are questions. The person's support team of professionals and direct care provider(s) serve as partners to ensure the person reaches his/her goals.

## **Volunteer Guardian responsibilities:**

- Meet in person with individual at least six times per year. Conduct other activities as needed.
- Have telephone/digital contact with the person and/or care provider (day or residential) to discuss the person's well-being during the months you are unable to make a visit.
- Prepare and maintain records and reports concerning activities with or on behalf of the person you're supporting as required by Probate Court, Cuyahoga DD, and/or other service providers.
- Record service hours online (monthly) spent carrying out your role and responsibilities as a Volunteer Guardian.
- Participate in annual continuing education/training (encouraged and may be required).

## **How to become a volunteer:**

- Be at least 21 years old.
- Complete our volunteer application process including an [application](#), reference check, interview, orientation and background and criminal record checks.
- Complete the required training offered by the Supreme Court of Ohio, available [online](#) and in-person.

## **Learn more:**

Contact Ashley Boyd, Communication and Inclusion Supervisor

Phone: 216.736.2722 or Email: [boyd.ashley@CuyahogaBDD.org](mailto:boyd.ashley@CuyahogaBDD.org)

*Our mission is to support and empower people with developmental disabilities to live, learn, work and play in the community.*

[Cuyahogabdd.org](http://Cuyahogabdd.org)