

Lucas County Probate Court

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JACK R. PUFFENBERGER
JUDGE

CHARLES P. SHAFFER
COURT ADMINISTRATOR

NANCY A. MILLER
CHIEF MAGISTRATE



MAGISTRATES

TREVOR N. FERNANDES
PAUL E. JOMANTAS
MARIA Q. MORGAN

November 12, 2015

Dear Guardian of an Adult Ward:

This letter is directed to all guardians of adult wards in Lucas County. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of certain rules recently adopted by the Ohio Supreme Court which directly impact you as a guardian. A complete copy of the rules is included in the [Guardianship Training Manual](#) enclosed.

These new rules include specific education requirements intended to ensure that guardians of adult wards have a clear understanding of their duties and responsibilities. These rules require guardians of adult wards to initially take a one-time six-hour course on the fundamentals of adult guardianship. An additional three hours of training is then required annually. Here in Lucas County, I have decided to waive the initial six hour course if you are a family member of your ward and you request a waiver. With this letter, you will find an application which may be filled out and returned to the court requesting a waiver of the initial six hour educational requirement. Please check all boxes which apply to your situation.

Whether you complete the initial six hour course or request to have it waived, you will be required to inform the court annually that you have met the required three hour education requirement. This can be done when you file your annual report. While I strongly recommend that you complete the education requirements, if you fail to do so you will not be removed as guardian of your ward, but rather you will be ineligible to serve as a guardian for any additional individuals.

If you wish to obtain the initial six hour education, the Supreme Court of Ohio Judicial College is offering the initial six-hour fundamentals course in the form of regional live courses, a broadcast version of the course, or as an online self-study course. The annual three-hour continuing education course will be available beginning in the first quarter of 2016. Current information on course dates, location, and registration can be found at the following link:

<http://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/Boards/judCollege/adultGuardianship/default.asp>

The Lucas County Probate Court may develop our own educational program or approve other training programs provided in the community. Details of additional educational opportunities will be announced on our website at www.lucas-co-probate-ct.org and by correspondence from the court directly to you.

As Judge of the Lucas County's Probate Court, I am well aware that these educational requirements required by the Ohio Supreme Court may be seen as a burden, particularly in light of your overall responsibilities as a guardian. However, the general intent of the rules is to help you in performing your duties and, as a result, benefit your ward. In addition to reviewing the enclosed Guardianship Training Manual, I also would recommend that you contact your attorney if you have any legal questions related to these rules or the materials contained in the manual.

Thank you for your willingness to serve as a guardian. Your efforts on behalf of your ward are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack R. Puffenberger". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "P".

Judge Jack R. Puffenberger

PROBATE COURT OF LUCAS COUNTY, OHIO
JACK R. PUFFENBERGER, JUDGE

GUARDIANSHIP OF: _____

CASE NO.: _____

**APPLICATION FOR WAIVER OF GUARDIAN
FUNDAMENTALS TRAINING REQUIREMENT
[SUP.R.66.06]**

Now comes _____ Applicant for the appointment as guardian in this matter; or _____ the duly-appointed Guardian of _____, an adult incompetent; and pursuant to the provision of Sup.R. 66.06(B) requests that the six hour guardian fundamentals course requirement be waived for the following reason(s) including but not limited to:

- I am related to the ward by blood or marriage and certify that I have received the Guardianship Training Manual and agree to review the contents and abide by the requirements set forth in Rule 66, Ohio Law and all orders of the Lucas County Probate Court.
- I have been serving as guardian, have complied with all requirements of the court, and am current in my reports and/or accounts.
- I have a physical disability which prevents me from taking the training course but I can continue to make decisions for my ward.
- My ward is receiving services through a local agency and I regularly receive information and training from the agency or other community resources.
- I received equivalent training through the volunteer guardianship program or other guardianship training.

Other: _____

APPLICANT

JUDGMENT ENTRY

The Application to waive the minimum six hour guardian fundamentals course requirement is granted for good cause shown; or is denied. If granted, the guardian three hour course continuing education requirements of Sup.R. 66.07 are not waived unless the court specifically so orders.

JUDGE

Copies of the Entry sent to the Applicant and his/her Attorney of Record, if any, on _____, by _____.