

Attachment: Adult Involuntary Guardianship Representation

Goal

Provide legal representation for low-income, low-asset proposed wards in adult involuntary guardianship establishment hearings.

Project Activities

Using the successful model pioneered by the Vermont Bar Association, private attorneys will represent respondents in an estimated 120 guardianship establishment proceedings each year. These respondents typically include elderly Vermonters, young adults and trauma victims who have diminished capacity to manage their affairs. The attorneys for these respondents will file limited notices of appearance, and those who choose to be paid will receive a stipend of \$75 per hour for up to 3 hours in each matter. Client eligibility (low-income/low-asset) will be determined by probate court staff.

Project Budget

The partnership is seeking an annual appropriation of \$30,000 to cover private attorney stipends and administrative costs.

Payments to private attorneys @ \$225 per case for 120 cases	\$ 27,000
VBA administrative costs to cover attorney recruitment and training, case placement and payments, tax and grant reporting, professional liability insurance coverage and client satisfaction monitoring.	\$ 3,000
Total Budget	\$ 30,000

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