



**THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA**

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER #2011-00-06

(Rescinding Administrative Orders 91-05, 97-04, 2008-00-07, 2008-00-08)

Effective October 1, 2011

**RE: GUARDIANSHIP EDUCATION AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR
GUARDIANS, EXAMINING COMMITTEES, APPOINTED ATTORNEYS, AND
GUARDIAN ADVOCATES**

WHEREAS, Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.215(b) (2) provides that the Chief Judge shall exercise administrative supervision over all courts within the judicial circuit.

Education and Training Requirements for Guardians

WHEREAS, Florida Statutes 744.3145 provides that each person appointed by the court to be a guardian, other than a parent who is the guardian of the property of a minor child, must receive a minimum of 8 hours of instruction and training and that each person appointed by the court to be the guardian of the property of his or her minor child must receive a minimum of 4 hours of instruction and training in guardianship, and that:

Each person appointed by the court to be a guardian must complete the required number of hours of instruction and education within 4 months after his or her appointment as guardian. The instruction and education must be completed through a course approved by the chief judge of the circuit court and taught by a court-approved organization. Court-approved organizations may include, but are not limited to, community or junior colleges, guardianship organizations, and the local bar association or The Florida Bar, and

Education and Training Requirements for Attorneys Appointed in Guardianship cases

WHEREAS, Florida Statute 744.331(2) (d) provides that an attorney seeking to be appointed by a court for *incapacity and guardianship proceedings* must have completed a minimum of 8 hours of education in guardianship, and Florida Statute 393.12(5) (a) provides that an attorneys appointed in *guardian advocate proceedings* must have completed a minimum of 8 hours of education in guardianship.

Education and Training Requirements for Examining Committees

WHEREAS, Florida Statute 744.331 (3) (d) provides that a member of an examining committee must complete a minimum of 4 hours of initial training. The person must complete 2 hours of continuing education during each 2-year period after the initial training. The initial training and continuing education program must be developed under the supervision of the Statewide Public Guardianship Office, in consultation with the Florida Conference of Circuit Court Judges; the Elder Law and the Real Property, Probate and Trust Law sections of The Florida Bar; the Florida State Guardianship Association; and the Florida Guardianship Foundation, and

Education and Training Requirements for Guardian Advocates

WHEREAS, Florida Statute 394.4598 (3) provides that each person appointed by the court to be a guardian advocate shall attend a training course approved by the court of not less than 4 hours and that the training course must be developed by the Department of Children and Families and taught by an organization approved by the chief judge.

IN ORDER to insure that there is guardianship training and education available for guardians, examining committee members, court appointed guardian attorneys, and guardian advocates to comply with their statutory education and training requirements, IT IS

ORDERED and ADJUDGED that:

1. The guardianship education and training courses presented by local bar attorneys in conjunction with the probate circuit court of Bay County is approved to provide the guardianship education and training required for guardians, court appointed attorneys in guardian advocacy and incapacity proceedings, and examining committee members in the Circuit Courts of this Circuit.
2. The Guardian Advocate Training Course developed by the Department of Children and Family Service is hereby approved, and further the following organization(s) is approved to teach said course: Life Management Center.
3. Said education and training courses shall comply with any statutory and rule requirements.

DONE AND ORDERED in Panama City, Bay County, Florida, this ¹²17 day of October 2011.


Hentz McClellan, Chief Judge


Elijah Smiley, Administrative Probate Judge



A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY
BILL KINSAUL CLERK
OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

By Gabriela Barbera
Deputy Clerk