

## ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:

- **Pals Program:** Volunteer mentors spend time in a recreational or learning activity with a child, age 3 or older, that has been referred by Brown County Child Protective Services. Volunteer mentors help the child adjust to the separation or loss of a parent, enhance self-esteem and confidence, and learn new skills.
- **Family Interaction Program:** Volunteers support children in out-of-home care by supervising the family interaction with their parents.
- **Volunteer Drivers:** Assist with transporting children and families safely to and from authorized visits and appointments.
- **Parent Pals Program:** Volunteer mentors spend time (2-3 times per month) with parents referred by Brown County Child Protective Services who have identified an interest in having an informal support in their lives.
- **General Volunteers:** If committing to a specific program does not fit in with your interests or schedule, Brown County Health and Human Services is always seeking assistance with miscellaneous tasks and events.



### CONTACT INFORMATION:

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# VOLUNTEER GUARDIANS

*Supporting Adults  
in our  
Community*

**E**stablished under Chapter 54 of the Wisconsin Statutes, Guardianship is a legal relationship created by the county circuit court to provide a ward deemed incompetent with a guardian to:

**I** Exercise rights the ward is mentally unable to exercise

**2** Make decisions the ward is mentally unable to make

**3** Be an advocate for the ward's interests

## **RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Act as an advocate for the ward. This includes authorizing, coordinating and supervising medical care as needed. Volunteers should have regular contact with the ward (at least once a month) to ensure proper care and treatment.
- Complete a simple annual report form for the Brown County Probate Office regarding the status and condition of the ward, and if applicable, complete an annual account if finances are handled.
- Submit a monthly report of hours volunteered. \*Guardians are also given the option to submit an expense sheet for a stipend and mileage reimbursement.
- Follow all State of Wisconsin statutes pertaining to guardian's responsibilities with the ward.
- Maintain confidentiality of the ward's personal information.
- Volunteers should also be available by phone for possible emergencies.

## **KNOWLEDGE & ABILITIES:**

An on-going commitment to staying attentive to and active in the life of a ward deemed to be incompetent. Medical knowledge or previous experience with a loved one is helpful but not necessary.

## **ORIENTATION & TRAINING:**

Initial orientation is provided to all volunteers by Adult Protective Services to familiarize them with goals and services and to provide volunteer guardians with the necessary background to carry out their duties and responsibilities. Case specific assistance from Adult Protective Services is on-going. Individual and group trainings are available. Volunteers are also invited to local and regional workshops.

## **REIMBURSEMENT:**

An optional monthly stipend of \$15.00 per ward plus reimbursement for expenses such as postage, photocopying, and mileage reimbursement at the annually established rate is available upon request.

## **PROCESS:**

- 1) Complete an application which includes background checks and references.
- 2) Obtain a copy of a valid driver's license and verification of auto insurance.
- 2) Adult Protection staff contact the Volunteer to schedule a time to go over basic training and agency information.
- 3) Adult Protection staff then match the Volunteer to a ward in need of a Guardian.