



News Release

FROM: Chambers of the Chief Judge
19th Judicial Circuit
Lake County
Waukegan, Illinois 60085-4359

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Waukegan, Illinois

GUARDIANSHIP HELP DESK

A self help desk set up to assist persons who want to establish a guardianship of a minor/s is now functioning in the courthouse.

The purpose of the help desk is to provide assistance to pro se (self represented) petitioners in filling out the necessary paperwork for guardianship and to help them understand the court process. The forms now prepared and completed with all of the correct information, will help eliminate hours of court time spent by the judge trying to explain to pro se petitioners what needs to be done before their petition is granted and will also afford the judge more time to hear more complex matters.

The project began with discussions among Circuit Judge Valerie Boettle Ceckowski and Lake County Bar Association members, attorneys Elizabeth Rochford and Tom Pasquesi. Current probate judge, Circuit Judge Diane E. Winter worked with the attorneys to revise the guardianship for minors forms and to set up the help desk. Judge Winter, said, "I am very happy about this program." "Not only will it help move matters more quickly on the court call, it will help people get their paperwork done correctly and eliminate multiple trips to the courthouse."

The help desk will be staffed by associate members of the Bar Association who have been trained as paralegals through the paralegal program offered at the College of Lake County. Attorney volunteers will be on hand to supervise the paralegals and to answer general questions.

The pro se help desk is located outside of Judge Winter's courtroom C-307, on the third floor of the Annex. Please watch for signage. It will be open every Friday morning at 9:00 a.m., except for holidays and when court is not in session. Appointments are not necessary.

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