

JUDGE ELINORE MARSH STORMER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Judge Elinore Marsh Stormer Announces Formation of JFS Volunteer Guardian Program

(Akron, Ohio, June 16, 2014) Elinore Marsh Stormer, Judge of Summit County Probate Court, announces the creation of a Volunteer Guardian Program. Due to our aging population, the demand for court appointed guardians increases every year. Under the direction of Judge Stormer, the Probate Court, in collaboration with the County Executive's Office, the Department of Public Health, the ADM Board and the Summit DD Board, has chosen Jewish Family Services to provide trained legal guardians to serve as advocates and surrogate decision-makers for those under the guardianship of Probate Court.

We all value our independence and ability to make decisions for ourselves. However, if an individual is unable to make their own choices, Probate Court appoints a Guardian to help the person in need. Frequently, indigent wards have no one willing or able to serve as their Guardian. We are looking for volunteers to help some of our most vulnerable citizens. "The JFS Volunteer Guardian Program volunteers will make a real difference to someone facing the most challenging time of their life. Our court works every day to protect those who cannot care for themselves," said Judge Stormer. Probate Court will provide a significant portion of the funding to the JFS Volunteer Guardian Program, as well as ongoing training and oversight.

"I support this collaboration as it is critical to the well-being of citizens unable to manage their own affairs," added Summit County Executive Russ Pry. "This program will help them maintain healthier, safer and more dignified lives."

Jewish Family Service Executive Director, Gizelle Jones, stated, "The JFS Volunteer Guardian Program is committed to maintaining the health, emotional well-being and stability of adult wards under guardianship of Probate Court. We are excited to be a part of this new and innovative program."

Anyone interested in learning more about Probate Court, guardianships and the JFS Volunteer Guardian Program is invited to attend a meeting on Wednesday, June 25, 2014, at 10:00 a.m., at the Ocasek Building auditorium, 161 South High Street, Akron. For more information, contact Probate Court at 330-643-8771 or communityoutreach@summitohioprobate.com or JFS Volunteer Guardian Program Director of Volunteers, Jennifer Mesko-Kimmich, at 330-867-3388 or volunteerguardian@jfsakron.org.

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