

# Court Visitor Program

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[www.utcourts.gov/visitor](http://www.utcourts.gov/visitor)



**Guardianship** is a legal proceeding in which a court determines that a person lacks capacity to make or communicate decisions, needs protection, and that there is no less restrictive alternative than appointing a guardian.

The court appoints the **guardian** with the authority to make some or all personal decisions on behalf of the protected person, and, if there is no conservator, the person's property.

A **conservator** is an individual or organization appointed by the court with the authority to make financial decisions on behalf of a person the court determines needs help in making such decisions.

Information about guardianship is available at [www.utcourts.gov/howto/family/gc/](http://www.utcourts.gov/howto/family/gc/).



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*The mission of the Utah State Courts is to provide the people an open, fair, efficient, and independent system for the advancement of justice under the law.*

# Court Visitor Program

The **Court Visitor Program** is a district court volunteer program that aims to protect vulnerable adults under guardianship, assist guardians and improve judges' decisions.

A **court visitor** investigates, observes, and reports to the court, ensuring that the protected person's needs are met, that their property is protected and being used for their benefit, and that the court's orders are being followed.



The judge may appoint a **court visitor** to gather evidence to help the judge:

- ◆ Decide whether the protected person may be excused from court hearings
- ◆ Decide the nature and extent of the protected person's incapacity
- ◆ Decide the nature and extent of the guardian's authority
- ◆ Ensure that the court's orders are being followed

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE AT THE UTAH STATE COURTS:

### Interviewer Auditor Tracker Teacher

**The Interviewer** interviews protected persons and others who are important in that person's life and observes the care of the protected person in their residential environment. Most of the visitor's work is in the homes of the people being interviewed.

**The Auditor**, a visitor with accounting skills, may be appointed to ensure that the guardian timely files required reports and to review reports and other records for indications of abuse, neglect, financial exploitation and other problems. Most of the visitor's work is in the courthouse.

**The Tracker**, a visitor with forensic skills, may be appointed to find guardians with whom the court has lost contact. The visitor may visit social media websites; contact friends, family and colleagues; and research bank, medical or other records.

**The Teacher**, a visitor with teaching skills, may train other visitors, guardians and the public. Most of the visitor's work is in a classroom setting, usually in a public building like a library.

**WHAT IT REQUIRES:** Volunteers are appointed by the court, contribute 8-10 hours per month for one year, and have flexible schedules.

**WHERE:** The program is operating in the **Second District** (Davis, Weber, and Morgan Counties); **Third District** (Salt Lake, Summit and Tooele counties); **Fourth District** (Wasatch, Utah, Juab and Millard Counties); and **Seventh District** (Carbon, Emery, Grand and San Juan counties).

#### BENEFITS:

- ◆ Improve the lives of vulnerable adults in your community
- ◆ Help families become better guardians
- ◆ Learn more about guardianship matters
- ◆ Serve as a court representative in guardianship matters
- ◆ Learn how the court system works
- ◆ Perform public service for a recognized institution
- ◆ Advance career options and obtain meaningful experiences
- ◆ Connect to the community

**HOW TO QUALIFY:** Complete an application form, background check, interview and training.

