

Instructions for reporting on the protected person's well-being

(1) Visitor's Report on Interviews and Observations about the Protected Person's Well-being

- Print your name at the top of the first page. Print the contact information for the volunteer court visitor program:
POB 140241
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-0241
801-578-3800
visitor@utcourts.gov
- Print the county name and the court address on the blank lines. Print the protected person's name, the judge's name and case number on the blank lines. (This information can be found on the order appointing you.)
- Paragraph (1): Mark the boxes that best describe the inquiries that you made. If you made inquiries other than those listed, describe them on the blank lines.
- Paragraph (2): Print the address where the protected person lives. Mark the box that best describes the protected person's current living circumstances. Print the names of the people who also live at the protected person's address, unless the protected person lives in a nursing home, assisted living facility or some other licensed, multi-resident facility. Print the relationship of that person to the protected person.
- Paragraph (3): Protected Person's values and preferences.
 - Mark the box that best describes the protected person's responses to the four questions. If you marked "no" in any of the boxes and/or if the protected person communicates a desire to change something, briefly describe in the blank lines what the protected person wants to change and/or why you marked "no."
 - Mark the box that best describes the protected person's response to the question whether the protected person wants a guardian. Print the name of the person the protected person wants to have as a guardian, even if that person is the current guardian.
 - Briefly describe the protected person's responses to whether there are any activities, relationships, or religious or cultural traditions or practices that the protected person wants to maintain or avoid. And any other preferences that the protected person expresses. The intent of these questions is to learn of any potential problems, conflicts or restrictions the guardian's decision making has placed on the protected person.
- In paragraphs (4), (5), (6) and (7), distinguish between what you have personally observed and what is reported to you by others.

- For example, you might describe a behavior as mild, based on your personal observations, but others involved in the protected person's life might describe the behavior as moderate. If reports to you are conflicting, note that in the comments section.
 - If you have no conclusions about a particular category, or if you had no opportunity to observe that category, leave the boxes in that line unmarked.
 - If you check "poor" or "moderate to severe" in any category, describe in the comments section the harm or potential harm and what steps could be taken to reduce the risk of harm.
- Paragraph (4): Guardian's care for the protected person. Explanation of ratings:
- Superior = The guardian's care is better than adequate and goes beyond meeting the protected person's basic needs.
 - Adequate = The guardian's care meets the protected person's needs and is not dangerous to the protected person.
 - Poor = The guardian's care is inadequate and is causing or will cause a serious negative effect on the protected person.
- Paragraph (5): Protected person's circumstances. Explanation of ratings:
- Superior = The protected person's circumstances are better than adequate and go beyond meeting the protected person's basic needs.
 - Adequate = The protected person's circumstances meet the protected person's needs and are not dangerous to the protected person.
 - Poor = The protected person's circumstances are inadequate and are causing or will cause a serious negative effect on the protected person.
- Paragraph (6): Daily functions. Explanation of ratings:
- Superior = The protected person's daily functions are better than adequate and go beyond meeting the protected person's basic needs.
 - Adequate = The protected person's daily functions meet the protected person's needs and are not dangerous to the protected person.
 - Poor = The protected person's daily functions are inadequate and are causing or will cause a serious negative effect on the protected person.
- Paragraph (7): Behavior. Explanation of ratings:
- None = You did not observe or did not receive a report by others of this specific type of behavior in the protected person.
 - Mild = You observed or received a report by others of this specific type of behavior in the protected person but the behavior is not dangerous to the

protected person or to others. If you check “mild,” describe in the comments section why the behavior is not dangerous and how it is being treated.

- Moderate to Severe = You observed or received a report by others of this specific type of behavior in the protected person and the behavior is causing or will cause a serious negative effect on the protected person or on others. If you check “moderate to severe,” describe in the comments section how the behavior is dangerous or potentially dangerous, what treatments have been prescribed, and what steps have been taken to protect those who may be at risk of harm.
- Paragraph (8): Protected Person’s relationships and responsibilities.
 - In the first section list the people with whom the protected person has a significant relationship and the type of relationship. This information can be gathered from the court file, the protected person and any other person you interview.
 - In the second, third and fourth sections, describe any problems based on information you gather from the court file, the protected person and any other person you interview.
- Paragraph (9): Print the guardian’s current contact information.
- Date and sign the form.
- Deliver the report to the program coordinator at least 2 days **before** the due date on the order. Make sure that the program coordinator **receives** the report at least 2 days before the due date. If you mail the report, send it at least 5 days before the due date.
- The program coordinator will file the report with the court, serve the report on the interested persons and complete and file the Certificate of Service.

(2) Private information

- Your report is a private record, which means that it must not be accessed by the public. Protect it from being seen or taken by an unauthorized person. Your report will be given to all of the interested persons involved in the case.

(3) Attending the hearing

- The judge or parties may have follow-up questions about your report, so you should plan on attending the hearing at which your report is reviewed. You can get the date, time and location of the hearing from the judicial assistant. If you are subpoenaed to testify, you must attend the hearing.

ADDENDUM

The following are non-exhaustive lists of abuse indicators:

Actions by guardian or others:

- the guardian isolates the protected person from friends and family
 - the guardian says the protected person is not willing or able to accept visits or calls
 - the guardian tells the protected person that no one wants to see him or her
 - the guardian often speaks for the protected person, even when the protected person is present
 - the guardian will not allow the protected person to participate in normal activities
- the guardian seems overly concerned about the protected person's finances
- the guardian is concerned that too much is spent on protected person's care
- the guardian has no means of support other than the protected person's income
- the guardian exhibits a lifestyle beyond his or her means
- the guardian has problems with alcohol or drugs
- the guardian has been charged with or convicted of abuse, neglect or exploitation of someone other than the protected person
- the guardian blames the protected person (for example, accusation that incontinence is a deliberate act)
- the guardian exhibits aggressive behavior (anger, threats, insults, harassment), sexual behavior (flirtation, coyness), or indifference toward the protected person
- the guardian is unwilling or reluctant to comply with service providers in planning and implementing care
- the protected person's family give conflicting accounts of events

Signs from the protected person of possible problems:

- the protected person's report of being physically, sexually, verbally or emotionally abused or mistreated
- the protected person's report of being ignored, mistreated or abandoned
- the protected person's report of being a part of vulnerable adult pornography

- the protected person's report of financial exploitation
- the protected person's sudden change in behavior might also indicate a problem of abuse, neglect or financial exploitation:
 - fear, apprehension
 - helplessness, resignation, withdrawal, depression
 - non-responsive, reluctance to talk openly
 - implausible stories, contradictory statements
 - anger, denial, agitation, anxiety
 - confusion
 - confusion about financial transactions
 - unusual behavior usually attributed to dementia (for example, aggressiveness, sucking, biting, rocking)

(4) Signs of abuse observed by the visitor or reported by other interested persons:

- frequent use of the emergency room or hospital or frequent changes in health care providers
- injury from an implausible cause, contradictory explanations
- injury that has not been properly cared for
- pain upon touching
- bruises, black eyes, welts, cuts, burns, and rope marks
- sprains, dislocations, and internal injuries or bleeding
- injuries in various stages of healing
- presence of old and new bruises at the same time
- broken eyeglasses, signs of being punished, signs of being restrained
- eye problems, retinal detachment
- bone fractures and skull fractures
- overdose or under-utilization of prescribed medication
- bruises around the breasts or genital area
- venereal disease or genital infections
- vaginal or anal bleeding
- torn, stained, or bloody underclothing
- unattended or untreated health problems

- inadequate or inappropriate administration of medication
- lack of necessary medical aids, such as eyeglasses, hearing aids, dentures, walkers, canes, and bedside commodes
- bed sores and signs of confinement (tied to furniture, locked in a room)
- lack of food in the home
- dehydration, malnutrition, weight loss, pallor, sunken eyes or cheeks
- homelessness or grossly inadequate housing
- unsanitary living conditions and poor personal hygiene (for example, dirt, fleas or lice on person, insect bites, soiled clothing or bedding, fecal/urine smell, inadequate clothing)
- unsafe conditions in the home (improper wiring, inadequate plumbing, no heat or running water no railings on stairs, etc.)
- hoarding
- animals in feral conditions
- deserting the protected person at a hospital, nursing facility, shopping center or other location