



NEWS RELEASE

**New York State
Unified Court System**

**Hon. Joseph A. Zayas
Chief Administrative Judge**

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Court System Launches Guardianship Resource Webpage

NEW YORK—Chief Administrative Judge Joseph A. Zayas and First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Norman St. George today announced the launch of the Unified Court System’s (UCS) new Guardianship In New York Resource Webpage (<https://ww2.nycourts.gov/guardianship/index.shtml>). This online resource contains useful information for anyone interested in learning more about the guardianship process, including informational videos (with subtitles in several languages), a glossary of commonly used guardianship terms, and links to critical information and resources for appointed guardians.

The Guardianship Resource Webpage was built as part of a nearly \$1,000,000 grant award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living, to modernize and reimagine guardianship proceedings in New York State. The Unified Court System’s partners in this endeavor are [Project Guardianship](#) and [JASA](#). Other components of the grant include creating a guardianship-specific module in the court system’s case management system, the creation of standard motion and order templates commonly used in guardianship cases, and significant outreach to guardianship stakeholders.

“Cases involving guardianship of persons who are unable to care for their personal needs or property are very serious matters. While guardianships should be considered a last resort, they are, in certain circumstances, necessary to protect vulnerable New Yorkers from financial exploitation or other abuse. The new website is an excellent resource, providing critical information and tools for appointed guardians, other court users, and the public at large, bringing greater understanding to this complex issue,” said Chief Administrative Judge Zayas.

“This user-friendly site contains a wealth of information and links to an array of resources, providing family, friends, and caregivers important knowledge about guardianships, helping them to navigate the guardianship process as well as explore social services options and other alternatives to guardianship. The court system’s judicial leadership team is thankful to all those behind the launch of this latest online tool—yet another fine example of how technology is being leveraged to help narrow New York’s justice gap,” said First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge St. George.

Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Edwina G. Richardson, who oversees the Office for Justice Initiatives, and this grant project, commended the court system’s overwhelming response to this opportunity. “Making our courts more approachable for New Yorkers is at the heart of what it means to promote access to justice, and this wonderful project has done just that. I am grateful to the many judges, non-judicial personnel, and guardianship professionals that have lent their time and expertise to get to this point,” she said.

Kimberly George, Project Guardianship’s President and CEO, said, “Project Guardianship was thrilled to work on this new website with the Unified Court System. New Yorkers have long needed a place to get clear yet detailed information on Article 81 guardianship. The website has newly created resources not only on commencing a guardianship but also less restrictive alternatives and ending a guardianship. It is very important to Project Guardianship and everyone involved with the project that guardianship only be used as the tool of last resort when New Yorkers need decision-making support.”

“The launch of UCS’ new Guardianship website is an important step towards advancing equal justice for New Yorkers” said Donna Dougherty, JASA’s Senior Director of Legal Services for Elder Justice. “The site provides critical information, resources and tools providing access to the courts and bringing a greater understanding to this complex issue. JASA commends Chief Judge Wilson and the UCS for their leadership and commitment to improving New York’s guardianship services.”

Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for New York City Courts Deborah A. Kaplan, who chairs the New York State Judicial Committee on Elder Justice, also praised the new website. “Given the fact that there is a growing number of older New Yorkers, the need for guardianships will likely increase in the coming years. While the goal is for all persons to maintain as much autonomy as possible, for as long as possible, guardianships tailored to the specific needs of the person are often necessary to protect a vulnerable individual from risk of harm to person or property and/or from being subjected to financial exploitation or other abuse. This website, which provides important information to New Yorkers about guardianships, as well as alternatives to guardianships, will be an invaluable resource to our community,” she said.

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