

**Thomas A. Swift, Judge**  
**TRUMBULL COUNTY PROBATE COURT**  
**161 High Street**  
**Warren, Ohio 44481**  
**(330) 675-2521**  
**fax: 675-3024**  
**www.trumbullprobate.org**

**GUARDIANSHIP OF AN INCOMPETENT**  
[R.C. 2111.03]

**What it will cost:** The court collects a deposit when the application is filed:  
person only: \$161.00 i estate only: \$161.00 i person & estate: \$161.00

**What to expect:** The applicant will need to complete the packet of forms. *Please note: The ward must be a resident of Trumbull County.* Please type or print legibly in blue or black ink and sign where indicated; these are official court documents.

The Statement of Expert Evaluation must be completed and signed by either licensed physician or a licensed psychologist. The statement of evaluation does not declare the subject incompetent, but is considered by the court as evidence of incompetency. Once this evaluation is filed with the court, it becomes confidential and accessible by court order only.

Once the application has been accepted for filing, the application is docketed and sent to the Assignment Clerk to schedule a hearing. A hearing is generally scheduled within two to three weeks. You will be notified by mail of the hearing date and time.

Within thirty days of filing the application, the applicant will need to submit to a criminal background check with the Trumbull County Sheriff's Department. The applicant must call the Sheriff's Department at 330-675-2540 for an appointment. The applicant will take the consent form and \$25.00 to the Sheriff's Department at the scheduled time. Results will be sent to the probate court and forwarded to the applicant

The Probate Court will appoint a court investigator to personally serve notice to the proposed ward. The court appointed investigator will also contact the prospective guardian to be interviewed. There is a video available for viewing that further explains the guardianship process.

On the day of the hearing, the applicant should arrive 10 to 15 minutes early and check in with the Probate Court's receptionist at the front office.

At the hearing, the magistrate will review the application and explain the guardian's duties. After the magistrate has approved your application, you will sign an Oath of Guardian and receive your Letters of Guardianship. (If the guardianship is contested by the proposed ward or another applicant, an evidentiary hearing will be needed.)