

**AMENDED ORDER ESTABLISHING MANDATORY
GUARDIANSHIP TRAINING COURSE**

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 744.3145, Florida Statutes, it is necessary that persons appointed as plenary guardians, including guardians of minors, receive instruction and training to ensure that they perform their guardianship duties in a competent manner;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Belvin Perry, Jr., pursuant to the authority vested in me as Chief Judge of the Ninth Judicial Circuit of Florida under Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.050 hereby order the following:

1. Unless ordered exempt by the court, each person appointed by the Court to be a guardian must complete a minimum of 8 hours of instruction and training within one (1) year after his or her appointment as guardian. The instruction and training must cover:

- a. The legal duties and responsibilities of the guardian;
- b. The rights of the ward;
- c. The availability of local resources to aid the ward; and
- d. The preparation of habilitation plans and annual guardianship reports,

including financial accounting for the ward's property.

2. The courses approved for this instruction and training are:

- a. Guardianship Training Course presented by Seniors First, Inc.; and

b. Basic Guardianship Training presented by the Osceola County Council on Aging.

3. Expenses incurred by the guardian to satisfy the education requirement may be paid from the ward's estate, unless the Court directs that such expenses be paid by the guardian individually.

4. The Court may, in its discretion, waive some or all of the requirements of this section or impose additional requirements. The Court shall make its decision on a case-by-case basis and, in making its decision, shall consider the experience and education of the guardian, the duties assigned to the guardian, and the needs of the ward.

5. The Court may allow guardians residing out of state or guardians requiring accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act to review a training video approved by the Court in lieu of attending the 8 hour training course.

6. Guardians who are entitled to compensation for their guardianship services and who are ordered by the Court to complete training as stated above, will not receive compensation for their services until they have completed the training.

7. The provisions of this Administrative Order do not apply to professional guardians.

8. This Administrative Order is effective immediately and Administrative Order No. 2000-10-1 dated March 26, 2003 is vacated and set aside.

DONE AND ORDERED at Orlando, Florida, this 23rd day of May, 2003.

/s/ Belvin Perry, Jr.
Belvin Perry, Jr.
Chief Judge

Copies to:

All Circuit & County Judges, Ninth Judicial Circuit
State Attorney's Office, Ninth Judicial Circuit
Public Defender's Office, Ninth Judicial Circuit
General Counsel, Orange County Sheriff's Office
Police Legal Advisor, Orlando Police Department
Orange County Attorney's Office
Osceola County Attorney
Orange County Corrections
Orange County Bar Association
Bar Briefs, Orange County Bar Association
Paul C. Perkins Bar Association
Hispanic Bar of Central Florida
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Orange County Law Library
Clerk of Courts, Osceola County
The Osceola County Bar Association
The Osceola County Law Library
The Osceola County Sheriff's Office
Director, The Osceola County Dept. of Corrections
Office of the Statewide Prosecutor
Central Florida Criminal Defense Attorneys Association
Executive Director of The Florida Bar
Official Records, Orange County Comptroller
Seniors First, Inc.
Osceola County Council on Aging

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