

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
OF ILLINOIS**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2024 - 10
PERTAINING TO GUARDIANSHIP TRAINING PROGRAMS**

The Circuit Court for the Fifth Judicial Circuit of Illinois, having received the majority approval of its circuit judges, and acting through its Chief Circuit Judge, adopts the following Administrative Order pertaining to the training programs for guardians of the person appointed pursuant to 755 ILCS 5/11a-1 *et seq.*:

WHEREAS, 755 ILCS 5/11a-12 provides in part:

(e) The order of appointment of a guardian of the person shall include the requirement that the guardian of the person complete the training program as provided in Section 33.5 of the Guardianship and Advocacy Act [20 ILCS 3955/33.5] that outlines the responsibilities of the guardian of the person and the rights of the person under guardianship and file with the court a certificate of completion one year from the date of issuance of the letters of guardianship, except that: (1) the chief judge of any circuit may order implementation of another training program by a suitable provider containing substantially similar content; (2) employees of the Office of the State Guardian, public guardians, attorneys currently authorized to practice law, corporate fiduciaries, and persons certified by the Center for Guardianship Certification are exempt from this training requirement; and (3) the court may, for good cause shown, exempt from this requirement an individual not otherwise listed in item (2). For the purposes of this subsection (e), good cause may be proven by affidavit. If the court finds good cause to exempt an individual from the training requirement, the order of appointment shall so state.

WHEREAS, 20 ILCS 3955/33.5 provides in relevant part:

The State Guardian shall provide a training program that outlines the duties and responsibilities of guardians appointed under ... 755 ILCS 5/11a-1 *et seq.* The training program shall be offered to courts at no cost, and shall outline the responsibilities of a guardian and the rights of a person with a disability in a guardianship proceeding The training program shall also include content regarding Alzheimer's disease and dementia, including, but not limited to, the following topics: effective communication strategies; best practices for interacting with people living with Alzheimer's disease or related forms of dementia; and strategies for supporting people living with Alzheimer's disease or related forms of dementia in exercising their rights....

WHEREAS, the Office of the State Guardian has developed and made available to the public an online guardianship training program in conformity with 20 ILCS 3955/33.5, which program may be found at the following internet address: <https://onenet.illinois.gov/guardianship>

WHEREAS, the circuit judges of the Fifth Judicial Circuit of Illinois have considered the curriculum of the guardianship training program offered by the State Guardian and have determined that satisfactory completion of that program would meet a guardian's training obligations under 755 ILCS 5/11a-12(e).

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

1. **Effective Date.** This administrative order is effective *instanter* and shall remain in effect until amended or modified by further order of the court.
2. The online guardianship training program offered by the Office of the State Guardian and identified above is approved for purposes of compliance with a guardian's training obligations under 755 ILCS 5/11a-12(e).
3. Unless otherwise exempted, every order of appointment of a guardian of the person entered in the Fifth Judicial Circuit of Illinois pursuant to 755 ILCS 5/11a-12 shall include the requirement that the guardian of the person complete the training program as provided in 20 ILCS 3955/33.5 that outlines the responsibilities of the guardian of the person and the rights of the person under guardianship and file with the court a certificate of completion one year from the date of issuance of the letters of guardianship. Language in substantial conformity with the following shall be deemed in compliance with this provision:

The Guardian of the Person shall complete the training program as provided in Section 33.5 of the Guardianship and Advocacy Act that outlines the responsibilities of the guardian of the person and the rights of the person under guardianship and file with the court a certificate of completion one year from the date of issuance of the Letters of Guardianship. The online guardianship training program offered by the Office of the State Guardian, and found at the following internet address: <https://onenet.illinois.gov/guardianship>, is approved for purposes of compliance with a Guardian's training obligations hereunder.

4. The court may issue further orders as necessary to re-assess the provisions of this Administrative Order, to determine if additional measures are required to ensure compliance with 755 ILCS 5/11a-12(e), including the implementation of other training programs.
5. It is further ordered that this Administrative Order be made available to the public.

6. The Clerks of the Circuit Court for each County within the Circuit shall post this administrative order on their websites if such websites are maintained.

Dated: this 3rd day of October, 2024



Thomas M. O'Shaughnessy, Chief Circuit Judge