



Superior Court of California County of Orange

NEWS RELEASE

Media and Community Relations Office
Contact: Carole Levitzky
(714) 834-7623

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Volunteers Needed to Help Court Conservator Program

Orange, Ca. - The Orange County Superior Court seeks volunteers to help monitor the care received by vulnerable elderly and developmentally disabled individuals who are under legal conservatorship. Volunteers in the C.A.R.E. program (Court Assistants Reaching Out with Empathy) help to ensure that proper care is given to those who need help in caring for themselves and managing their personal finances.

Trained volunteers assist the court in researching case files, recruiting and coordinating other volunteers, and making visits to private homes and board and care facilities in between the legally mandated investigations by the Court Investigator. Though volunteers do not have enforcement authority, they are beneficial in that they help in early identification of "at risk" cases because they are additional eyes and ears for the court. Any problems that are detected by the volunteers are immediately reported to a Court Investigator for further follow-up or action.

Volunteers are asked to devote four to five hours per week and commit to the program for one year. Also, volunteers are required to attend a one and one-half day training program that is focused on the responsibilities of the volunteer as an assistant to the court, ethics, confidentiality, standards of care, and factors and issues in adult abuse and neglect. For further information regarding the Volunteers C.A.R.E. Program, contact Judy Cole, Manager, Mediation and Investigative Services at (714) 935-7980.

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700 Civic Center Drive, West
Santa Ana, California 92702

