

Community

JF&CS guardianship program helps a neighbor in need

An essential part of being a responsible parent is providing clear instructions for your children's care should something happen to you. This is critically important when children — young or already grown — have special needs and are unable to make informed, responsible decisions about their finances and overall wellbeing when you and your spouse are no longer around.

People also may be concerned that your own end-of-life plans won't be executed exactly as you intend, and you're looking for a way to ensure that they will.

Jewish Family & Children's Service offers professional, compassionate care for those incapable of caring for themselves. Comprehensive guardianship services are available to individuals determined by the Court to be incapacitated and

no longer able to make their own decisions.

JF&CS serves clients with private guardianship needs as well as through a contract with the Allegheny County Office of Mental Retardation/Developmental Disabilities. JF&CS may serve as guardian of person, estate or both and act as power of attorney.

Guardianship of person: JF&CS makes daily decisions about the client's personal affairs, with the idea of protecting the client's autonomy, independence and rights, which include decisions about residential care, medical care and social and wellness opportunities.

Guardianship of estate: JF&CS manages the client's financial resources and affairs such as bill paying, insurance, money/investment management and working with social security to en-

sure benefits.

Power of attorney: Through written and notarized power of attorney documents, individuals can bestow upon JF&CS the legal power to act on their behalf according to the terms of the document when the individual is no longer able to do so. Advance health care directives can be put into place by the individual and carried through by the caseworker.

JF&CS guardianship caseworkers are nationally certified by the Center for Guardianship Certification, providing added assurance to the courts and the community of JF&CS's excellence in the delivery of guardianship services.

Contact Nicole Iole, director of guardianship services, at (412) 422-7200 or nirole@jfcspgh.org for more information.