

THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 7.08

**APPROVAL OF GUARDIANSHIP EDUCATION COURSES PURSUANT TO THE
FLORIDA GUARDIANSHIP LAW §744.3145, FLORIDA STATUTES**

In order to provide for the requirements of the Eighth Judicial Circuit with regard to guardianship education courses; and

WHEREAS, § 744.3145, Florida Statutes requires that guardians must receive instruction and education within four months after appointment through a course approved by the Chief Judge of the Circuit Court and taught by a court-approved organization; and

WHEREAS, the Eighth Judicial Circuit Bar Association is an approved organization and has produced a guardian education course that meets the requirements of § 744.3145, Florida Statutes and, for the convenience of appointed guardians, has made the guardian education course available through electronic recording on DVD with accompanying written materials; and

WHEREAS, the Court has, with the assistance of Tacachale officials, developed an educational curriculum and course tailored to fit the needs of guardians or guardian advocates whose wards are residents of Tacachale or are similarly situated with developmental disabilities, and the Tacachale staff, under the direction of the Superintendent of Tacachale, has agreed to arrange for, offer and supervise the teaching of that course; and

WHEREAS, both courses have been reviewed and approved by the Administrative Judge of the Circuit Civil and Probate Division as designated by the Chief Judge; and

WHEREAS, the Court has discretion to waive guardian education in certain instances, pursuant to Florida Statutes § 744.3145(6);

IT IS ORDERED:

AUTHORIZATION OF COURSE BY CHIEF JUDGE

1. The Guardian Education Course of the Eighth Judicial Circuit Bar Association is approved as meeting the requirements of §744.3145, Florida Statutes, and appointed guardians will satisfy their instruction and education requirements by viewing the DVD recording, reading the accompanying written materials, and attesting thereto as required by Fla. Prob. R. 5.625.

2. The course materials may be obtained by contacting the Executive Director of the Eighth Judicial Circuit Bar Association as follows: Post Office Box 13924, Gainesville, Florida 32604, by e-mail, execdir@8jcba.org, or by telephone: (352) 380-0333/Fax: (866) 436-5944. If the guardian cannot afford to pay the full cost of the guardianship education course provided by the Eighth Judicial Circuit Bar Association, the guardian may file a motion to reduce or waive the cost of the guardianship education course and an affidavit of indigence that reflects the guardian's finances.

3. To assure that the materials and DVD are current, they will be revised as needed and will be reviewed at least annually by the Staff Attorneys in the Eighth Judicial Circuit's Guardianship Divisions.

TRAINING FOR GUARDIANS AND GUARDIAN ADVOCATES OF TACACHALE RESIDENTS

4. The training course and videotape developed by the Tacachale staff is hereby approved for use in the Eighth Judicial Circuit in Tacachale's guardian education program.

5. The staff of Tacachale, under the supervision of its Superintendent, as employees of the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services of the State of Florida, is hereby approved as an organization to coordinate, teach, supervise and administer this education course.

6. This education course and all matters pertaining thereto shall continue to be under the authority of the Administrative Judge of the Eighth Judicial Circuit's Civil and Probate Division.

7. All guardians and guardian advocates of Tacachale residents or similarly situated developmentally disabled persons shall complete the education course offered by Tacachale unless otherwise ordered by the Court.

ATTORNEYS

8. Guardians, who are attorneys, may comply with the requirements of guardian education by certifying under penalties of perjury that they have read the materials provided for the guardian education course as supplied by the Eighth Judicial Circuit Bar Association or the staff at Tachachale.

9. Upon the certification being filed, the attorney shall supply the Court with an order waiving guardian education.

This Order replaces Administrative Order No. 7.08 (v2) entitled "Approval of Guardian Education Courses Pursuant to the Florida Guardianship Law §744.3145, Florida Statutes" entered February 26, 2013.

ORDERED on this 30th day of January, 2015 *nunc pro tunc* February 26, 2013.



Robert E. Roundtree, Jr., Chief Judge