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**Northampton County Judge Issues Administrative Order
(Guardians Required to Obtain Certification)**

HARRISBURG, PA – In a progressive move, Judge Emil Giordano, Administrative Judge for the Northampton County Orphans' Court, issued an administrative order requiring all guardians in that county to obtain guardianship certification. The certification will be obtained through the Center for Guardianship Certification (CGC) and maintained through continuing education. The order, dated February 11, 2014, requires compliance within one calendar year. Northampton County is the first county in the Commonwealth to issue such an order.

Judge Giordano stated, "It is important to have all guardians in Northampton County certified by the Center for Guardianship Certification to ensure incapacitated persons are properly being represented in the court systems. The certification will identify the guardians of this county as individuals who are qualified to serve as a fiduciary and who can be entrusted with complex financial affairs. The elderly and incapacitated persons of Northampton County deserve the utmost care and diligence in their legal representation and guardianship certification is the first step in the right direction."

CGC's vision is that every professional guardian will obtain and maintain CGC certification. The organization is actively discussing mandatory certification with other states. CGC President Michelle Kenney said, "CGC is the only national certification program provided for guardians. In addition to an examination, continuing education is required as well as a background check. A complaint system is in place to review possible violations of the CGC Rules & Regulations and we continue to monitor our program for improvements."

CGC certification, or taking the CGC examination, is currently required of guardians in Alaska, California, Illinois (public guardians), New Hampshire, Nevada, Oregon, Utah and Washington.

CGC strongly encourages others to follow Judge Giordano's leadership and expand CGC certification of guardians throughout the Commonwealth. For more information about the CGC, please visit our website at www.guardianshipcert.org.

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