



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 25, 2012

Contact: Alison Evans, Communications Manager

717-238-4689, [communications@guardianshipcert.org](mailto:communications@guardianshipcert.org)

Center for Guardianship Certification (CGC), PO Box 5704, Harrisburg, PA 17110

Phone: 717.238.4689, Fax: 717.238.9985, Web: [www.guardianshipcert.org](http://www.guardianshipcert.org)

---

## **Kathleen Ann Eddy Awarded National Master Guardian Star Achievement Award**

During the National Guardianship Association's Annual Conference in Portland, Ore., Kathleen Ann Eddy, NMG, received the National Master Guardian Star Achievement Award. One of the highest honors bestowed by the Center for Guardianship Certification (CGC), the award recognizes the person's exemplary work as a CGC National Master Guardian and demonstrated knowledge of advanced guardianship concepts, ethics and issues.

For more than 28 years, Eddy has been with the state of Illinois. She spent 14 years as a Public Service Administrator with the Office of State Guardian. The previous 14 years, she was a Supervising Rights Coordinator with the Human Rights Authority. Prior to that, Eddy was with the Illinois Developmental Disabilities Advocacy Authority. She also served as a volunteer advocate in a regional parent group covering the western part of Illinois.

Eddy finds that NGA Standard 6 (Informed Consent) is important when managing guardianship services for approximately 450 persons under guardianship. She reminds her staff that it can be easy to get consumed with the daily demands from service providers and too often act in haste. But, according to Eddy, providing informed consent is the core service of a guardian. She is tenacious in obtaining information from health care providers, facility staff, family and friends of each of her persons under guardianship.

Standard 9 (self-determination) is another value Eddy finds to be at the heart of her practice. She encourages her staff to model self advocacy behaviors so persons under guardianship that are able can learn how to better advocate for themselves, thus gaining more control over their lives.

Eddy encourages independent thought not only amongst her staff, but with the persons under guardianship as well. Her ultimate goal is for the wards to seek restoration of rights. If that isn't feasible, she encourages that limited powers be given to the state as guardian so the persons under guardianship are able to make more decisions on their own.

She reminds her staff of Standard 12 (duties of the guardian of the person). Eddy carefully monitors what each facility purchases for her persons under guardianship and from where the monies are obtained. Many times, she will find the facility will use person under guardianship money to buy care items that should be provided by the facility. Our recipient will request that the facility reimburse the persons under guardianship for the item. She also verifies the receipt of all public entitlement monies and makes suggestions for other funding sources.

Eddy promotes the highest guardianship standards to her staff and to persons under guardianship. She advocates for the needs of persons under guardianship and has truly demonstrated her knowledge of advanced guardianship concepts, ethics and issues.

###

*(Photo of Eddy available upon request)*

*CGC was founded in 1997 by the National Guardianship Association and is headquartered in Harrisburg, PA. CGC has more than 1,700 National Certified Guardians and 63 National Master Guardians. For more information about national guardianship certification or to find a guardian, conservator or fiduciary in your area, please visit [www.guardianshipcert.org](http://www.guardianshipcert.org).*