



# TESTIMONIALS

The following testimonials are from individuals who are National Master Guardian's and want to share why you should take the NMG exam. They discuss some study ideas for taking the exam and provide tips for those who are thinking about taking the NMG exam. We hope this is helpful as you make the decision to become a National Master Guardian (NMG)!

## **Why did you decide to take the NMG exam?**

Shannon Butler: I took the NMG exam to demonstrate my level of knowledge in the field. I wanted to be seen as a leader in guardianship who exemplifies applying the NGA Standards of Practice and Ethical Principles on the highest level.

Julia Nack: I had 20 years in the profession when I took it. For me, it meant credibility in court, since in Ohio at that time the judges were basically using only attorneys, often new graduates who had been told guardianship was a good way to establish their law practice.

Amanda Lambert: I recall my boss at the time encouraged me to get the National Master Guardian designation since it lends credibility to the company.

Deborah Brown: I was invited to take the exam by my employer who stated she wanted our company to be set apart from the other guardianship services in the state. I believe she had the right idea, as the distinction of a "master" in ability indicates a more serious dedication in how services are provided in this profession.

## **How did you study for the NMG exam?**

Susan DeBoer: I reviewed the NGA Standards of Practice, cases, and approaches taken in cases. I thought about how to case manage a case and how to find information and seek assistance when needed.

Deborah Brown: I was mostly serving as guardian of the person, so I spent time with Realtors, wealth managers and financial fiduciaries to broaden my ability of knowing when to seek their services and augment what I already knew in those areas of finances and estates.

Russ Marshall: I studied the Standards of Practice, making flash cards about subjects such as the elements of Informed Consent, Surrogate Decision Making, Substitute Judgment and Best Interest.

## **How did you organize your exam response time?**

Susan DeBoer: I outlined my topics, then thoughts, then filled in content. I organized my exam as if I was writing a court report.

Jean Krahn: I identified and explored the different options or alternatives to pursue and articulated why they were included or excluded.

Amanda Lambert: I remember that when a question stumped me, I'd go on to another one and come back later to the vexing one. I think this is a good strategy because it gives your brain and your emotions time to settle down a bit and refresh.

## **What should you know to successfully pass the NMG exam?**

Jean Krahn: Know how to articulate your knowledge, options to explore/consider and don't assume an evaluator will know what you mean.

Shannon Butler: Have a good understanding of the NGA Standards of Practice and how they apply to day to day situations with clients, families and teams. Questions require that you walk through situations and demonstrate a thorough analysis and action plan of all aspects of client situations.

Russ Marshall: I failed the exam the first time I took it because I did not know what to study. I failed the second time because I mistakenly believed that if I had addressed an issue in the answer to one question, I did not need to repeat myself if that same issue appeared in a subsequent question. I passed on my third attempt. NEVER GIVE UP.

## **Describe your NMG exam experience.**

Susan DeBoer: I answered as if I was case managing the case and giving an update to the court. I remember going in a couple of different directions on questions. Such as, if this happened I would do this, but if this other thing happened I would do this.

Deborah Brown: I was excited to take the exam because I felt I had studied quite a lot and was hopeful that my experience as a guardian would be adequate enough.

Russ Marshall: The exam itself was a bit of a time crunch. You have to read the questions really quickly so you can start writing your answers, or you will run out of time.

## **How do you recommend calming nerves before taking the exam?**

Susan DeBoer: Over-prepare as you would if going to court. Rely on your experience, write a full answer like you really were given the case.

Jean Krahn: Understand how to analyze complex cases and provide comprehensive/thoughtful responses.

Shannon Butler: Walk through each situation and be as thorough as possible in your answers, especially noting the "obvious" things you would do as I think sometimes we jump over the basics.

## **What is your opinion of the NMG distinction?**

Shannon Butler: I am proud to hold the title of NMG, I think it definitely sets me apart when people view my website and see that I am the only NMG in MN.

Jean Krahn: Personally, I highly value the designation, although, it is uncommon to receive an inquiry about the designation.

Deborah Brown: There is a sense of accomplishment and distinction for me. I felt a more genuine commitment to be a better guardian because of the designation.

Russ Marshall: The NMG designation is extremely important to me. I happen to be the only NMG in my state (CA) and I let people know that often. It helps with marketing my practice. I have been called on many times as an expert witness, which is quite gratifying and one of the least stressful parts of my practice.