

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF PHILADELPHIA COUNTY
ORPHANS' COURT DIVISION

**Orphans' Court Appointment List for Guardianship Matters
Information Sheet for Attorneys Interested in Applying**

The passage of [Act 61 of 2023](#) (effective June 11, 2024) established, amongst other things, a right to counsel in all guardianship proceedings.

To comply with this directive, the Philadelphia Orphans' Court maintains a list of qualified attorneys who are appointed to represent alleged incapacitated and incapacitated persons in guardianship matters.

Curious about joining the Orphans' Court appointment list? Interested attorneys must meet and fulfill certain eligibility and responsibility requirements, including but not limited to:

- Being a member in good standing of the Pennsylvania Bar;
- Having an active law practice in Philadelphia County, a Commercial Activity License issued by the City of Philadelphia, and maintaining Professional Liability Insurance;
- Obtaining a Certificate of Attendance at a court approved Continuing Legal Education seminar on guardianship each year;
- Complying with the Rules of Professional Conduct and advocating for the client's expressed wishes consistent with the client's instructions; and
- Appearing at all court proceedings to represent the client and continuing representation for the duration of the matter, including subsequent proceedings and review hearings.

Attorneys must certify familiarity with the following rules:

- [Pennsylvania Orphans' Court Rules](#)
- [Philadelphia Orphans' Court Rules](#)
 - [Phila. O.C. Div. Rule 14.4 \(new\)](#)
- [Pennsylvania Statutes Title 20 Pa. C.S.A. Decedents, Estates, and Fiduciaries](#)

The pay rate for court appointed counsel with one to five years of practice is \$250 per hour for services rendered, and \$300 per hour for those attorneys with five plus years of practice.

Counsel shall record their time and file a Petition for Allowance of Counsel Fees which will be reviewed by the court for fairness and reasonableness.

Ready to apply? Complete the fillable application form available on the Orphans' Court website: <https://www.courts.phila.gov/pdf/orphans/Court-Appointed-Counsel-Application.pdf>.

Your completed application form, or any questions regarding the process, should be sent via email to: OCcourtappointedcounsel@courts.phila.gov.