

Marcus J. Thorne

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Dedicated Senior Legal Guardian with over 12 years of experience managing complex cases for incapacitated adults and minors. Proven expertise in navigating US probate courts, managing multi million dollar estates, and coordinating comprehensive care plans. Committed to upholding the highest ethical standards and ensuring the dignity and safety of every ward through proactive advocacy and meticulous financial administration.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Lead Adult Guardian | Cook County Public Guardian Office | Chicago, IL

Apr 2016 - Present

- Oversee the holistic care and legal advocacy for a specialized caseload of 40 incapacitated adults totaling \$4.2M in managed assets.
- Negotiated with healthcare providers to reduce medical expenses for wards by 15% through meticulous insurance auditing.
- Authored and submitted 160+ annual financial and status reports to the Probate Division with zero instances of court rejection.
- Directed a multi-disciplinary team of social workers and nurses to stabilize housing for 12 formerly homeless wards within 6 months.
- Spearheaded a training initiative for new appointees that improved case processing efficiency by 20% across the department.

Professional Conservator | Heritage Estate Services | Evanston, IL

Aug 2011 - Mar 2016

- Managed the financial portfolios of 15 high-net-worth wards, ensuring long-term fiscal stability and tax compliance.
- Identified and halted three cases of financial exploitation, successfully recovering \$85,000 in stolen funds through legal subpoenas.
- Coordinated the sale and management of real estate assets valued at \$3M, maximizing returns for the benefit of the wards.
- Collaborated with legal counsel to resolve 10+ contested guardianship cases through successful mediation and family counseling.
- Streamlined the fiduciary accounting process by implementing automated tracking software, reducing monthly reporting errors by 40%.

Child Advocate & Guardian ad Litem | Child Welfare Advocates Group | Oak Park, IL

Jun 2007 - Jul 2011

- Represented the best interests of 50+ foster children in juvenile court hearings, advocating for permanent placement solutions.
- Developed comprehensive life-skills programs for wards transitioning out of the foster care system at age 18.
- Secured specialized behavioral health services for 20+ children through persistent advocacy with state child welfare agencies.
- Facilitated 15 successful adoptions by coordinating communication between biological parents, foster families, and state officials.
- Maintained meticulous case files that served as the primary evidence in high-stakes parental rights termination proceedings.

EDUCATION

Loyola University Chicago School of Law | Master of Laws (LLM) | Child and Family Law

Sep 2005 - May 2007

University of Illinois | Bachelor of Science | Social Work

Aug 2001 - May 2005

SKILLS

Probate Law Knowledge, Court Reporting, Legal Documentation, Rights Advocacy, Regulatory Compliance, Estate Administration, Fiduciary Accounting, Budgeting & Expense Tracking, Asset Protection, Benefits Coordination (SSDI/Medicaid), Crisis Intervention, Conflict Resolution, Ethical Decision Making, Cross Functional Collaboration, Empathetic Communication

CERTIFICATIONS

National Certified Guardian (NCG) | Center for Guardianship Certification (Oct 2012)

Certified Senior Advisor (CSA) | Society of Certified Senior Advisors (May 2014)

LANGUAGES

English (Native)

Spanish (Fluent (Bilingual Professional))

ACTIVITIES

National Guardianship Association

Active member and guest speaker at annual conferences regarding ethical asset management.

Chicago Volunteer Legal Services

Provide pro bono guardian ad litem services for low income families in Cook County.