



Mindi R. Blanchard, M. Ed., CPG
President

Date: February 24, 2022

To: Clerk of the Supreme Court

From: Mindi R. Blanchard, M.Ed., CPG
Bridge Builders, Ltd

RE: GR 23 Changes

To Whom It May Concern:

I am the President of Bridge Builders, Ltd, a certified guardian agency. There are two CPGs and one currently taking the certification course to become a CPG in this agency. I have been organizing continuing education conferences for CPGs since 2004. In 2013, I founded The Guardian Institute, a 501(c)3 non-profit, with the goal of providing resources to CPGs and to vulnerable adults. I, personally, have been certified as a guardian since 2002.

Over the years, I have witnessed a guardian board where too many board members have no working knowledge of the responsibilities and challenges that CPGs face on a daily basis. I have attended board meetings and have sometimes heard derogatory and dismissive remarks regarding CPGs made by board members. The CPGs on the board get frustrated trying to explain the nuances of guardianship because the majority of the board sometimes seemed to have preconceived opinions on the overall character of CPGs. All of this has at times caused decisions to be made that have not been helpful in resolving underlying problems.

I believe that having a larger percentage of CPGs on the guardian board will help those board members from agencies have a better understanding of the nuances of guardianship. It is easy to dismiss three CPGs on the board, as they are the small minority, but if there were 50% or more CPGs all saying the same thing, I believe the other board members could be more enlightened.

I have been a CPG long enough to remember how things were at the beginning of the development of our regulatory board. I witnessed the CPGs who were grandfathered in coming to my conferences and have witnessed a tremendous amount of improvement in the quality of guardians. The CPGB has come a long way in their efforts to ensure that quality individuals get certified. I think that there is now a pool of guardians to choose from who would make exceptional board members.

I would also like to address the issue of the CPGB conducting some of its business in

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closed-door sessions that did not include discipline and applications even though their

regulations required them to be public sessions. I believe that the CPGB needs to limit their closed-door sessions to discipline and applications. I realize that some topics might be uncomfortable when discussed publicly but transparency is important. We CPGs are required to be transparent in our work. The CPGB needs to show good leadership by doing the same.

Respectively submitted,

Mindi R Blanchard

Mindi R. Blanchard, M.Ed., CPG
Bridge Builders, Ltd.

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Please find attached my letter regarding the possible change to the Certified Professional Guardian and Conservator Board GR23.

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President
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