

Notice to the Parties Regarding the Court Visitor Program

A Court Visitor, under the Court Visitor Program, is a volunteer with no personal interest or connection in the proceedings. The Court Visitor acts at the direction of the judge and through a court order outlining the parameters of the assignment.

The role of the Court Visitor is to investigate and serve as the “eyes and ears” of the judge in a particular case by gathering information, conducting interviews and observations, and reviewing documents. The work of the Court Visitor culminates in preparing a report for the judge, summarizing the extent of the investigation and the information obtained therein.

Court Visitors provide an important and integral service in assisting the courts' ability to make informed decisions about guardianship and conservatorship cases. To provide this service, the Court Visitor functions as a neutral, unbiased, third party.

The Court Visitor, and by extension, the Court Visitor Program (hereafter collectively identified as the CVP) maintains the following parameters in order to ensure the integrity of the investigation and adherence to their impartial role:

- The CVP is not a party to the case. The Court Visitor is an extension of the judge and a special appointee to the court.
- The CVP assignment ends on the date listed on the court order.
- The CVP does not represent or advocate for any party in the case.
- The CVP does not participate in mediation. A Court Visitor's assignment is placed on hold if mediation is ordered.
- The CVP does not discuss or respond to individual inquiries from parties (or their representatives) about the investigation or the contents of the Report.
- The CVP does not disclose or share drafts of the Report with parties or their representatives.
- The CVP does not and may not file or respond to motions, including any motions that might request punitive action against the CVP.
- The CVP does not amend submitted Reports.
- After the CVP submits a report, the CVP does not actively participate in the case. It is the role of the court to determine the meaning and impact of the report and what happens next.

The CVP takes seriously its unique role and purpose in assisting the courts. The boundaries listed above allow the CVP to perform their responsibilities at the highest level, and ensure that the CVP can continue to serve effectively as the “eyes and ears” of the judge in guardianship and conservatorship proceedings.



The mission of the Utah State Courts is to provide the people an open, fair, efficient, and independent system for the advancement of justice under the law