



# *Guardianship & Fiduciary Services*



**908-232-7400**

[www.VanarelliLaw.com](http://www.VanarelliLaw.com)



## *Guardianship and Fiduciary Services*

**T**HE NEW JERSEY LAW OFFICE OF DONALD D. VANARELLI provides guardianship services to clients as legal counsel and professional fiduciary. In that regard, Mr. Vanarelli is a Certified Elder Law Attorney, a National Certified Guardian and a Guardian and Court Evaluator in New York State. This combination of credentials allows Mr. Vanarelli and his firm to offer a wide variety of guardianship services to clients.

Mr. Vanarelli often represents family members and others seeking guardianship of incapacitated loved ones. Mr. Vanarelli is also available to serve as agent under powers of attorney or guardian for clients in need of such services. Similarly, Mr. Vanarelli may serve as executor under a Last Will and Testament, or trustee of an *inter vivos* or testamentary trust. We offer these services to New Jersey residents:

- ▶ Last Wills and Testaments
- ▶ Counsel for Family Members Seeking Guardianship of Incapacitated Loved Ones
- ▶ Guardian of the Person
- ▶ Guardian of the Estate
- ▶ Agent under a Power of Attorney
- ▶ Agent under an Advance Medical Directive
- ▶ Executor
- ▶ Trustee
- ▶ Estate Administration
- ▶ Guardian *Ad Litem*
- ▶ Conservator
- ▶ Representative Payee
- ▶ Legal Counsel for the Proposed Ward in a Guardianship Lawsuit
- ▶ Legal Counsel for Parties in Guardianship Contests



## **Legal Counsel for Family Members Seeking Guardianships**

The law firm represents family members and others in legal proceedings for the appointment of a guardian for an incapacitated person.

### **Guardianship of the Person**

Once appointed as guardian by the chancery court, the law firm works to arrange for appropriate services that provide for the health, welfare and safety of a ward.

### **Guardianship of the Estate**

Once appointed as a guardian for financial affairs by the chancery court, the law firm ensures that the assets of an incapacitated person are properly managed and protected in accordance with the law.

### **Agent Under a Power of Attorney or Advance Medical Directive**

Mr. Vanarelli is available to carry out and advocate for wishes that were previously expressed in a power of attorney or advance medical directive, when the client is unable to do so for him/herself.

### **Executor or Trustee**

Mr. Vanarelli is available to serve as executor under a Last Will and Testament, or as trustee of a trust established during life or after death via the client's Last Will and Testament.

### **Legal Counsel for Parties in Guardianship Contests**

The law firm represents family members in contested guardianship litigation, including contesting the appointment of a proposed guardian.



## **Estate Management**

The law firm provides professional NJ estate management. By first assessing the needs of our clients, the law firm is able to develop an estate plan to assure that each beneficiary's needs are met to the maximum extent possible.

## **Guardian *ad Litem***

When certain individuals, particularly children and vulnerable adults, are involved in disputes or in guardianship contests, the court may appoint Mr. Vanarelli to act as a guardian *ad litem* to act in the best interests of the protected individual during litigation.

## **Conservatorships**

There may be times when an individual requests assistance to help manage his or her financial affairs. Mr. Vanarelli may serve as court-ordered conservator in these cases.

## **Representative Payee**

Many persons need assistance in managing their public assistance or retirement benefits. Mr. Vanarelli can act as a representative payee for these persons, assisting them in managing their often limited assets as wisely as possible.

## **Legal Counsel for the Proposed Ward**

Mr. Vanarelli is often appointed by the chancery court to serve as legal counsel for an alleged incapacitated person. In such cases, the law firm will advocate on the client's behalf.



## *About Donald D. Vanarelli, Esq.*

### **AWARD-WINNING NEW JERSEY ESTATE PLANNING ATTORNEY**

**D**ONALD VANARELLI is a recipient of the Marilyn Askin Lifetime Achievement Award from the New Jersey State Bar Association's Elder and Disability Law Section. The Lifetime Achievement Award, the Elder and Disability Law Section's highest honor, is bestowed on an attorney with an established history of distinguished service who has made significant contributions in the field of elder and disability law throughout his or her career.

### **Qualifications Include:**

- ▶ Recipient, Lifetime Achievement Award, by the NJ State Bar Association, Elder & Disability Law Section
- ▶ Certified Elder Law Attorney, National Elder Law Foundation, accredited by the ABA
- ▶ Named to the Super Lawyer list for the years 2007–present
- ▶ Rated "AV Preeminent" by Martindale-Hubbell, Signifying Professional Excellence
- ▶ Lead counsel in *In re Keri*, a landmark NJ Supreme Court case in which guardians, for the first time, were permitted to engage in public benefits planning to obtain Medicaid eligibility for their wards
- ▶ Lead counsel in *Saccone v. Police and Firemen's Retirement System*, in which the NJ Supreme Court, for the first time, permitted a special needs trust to be designated as the beneficiary of a state pension
- ▶ Co-counsel in *Galletta v. Velez*, in which a federal court, for the first time, held that VA pension benefits are not countable in determining Medicaid eligibility
- ▶ Past Chair, Elder and Disability Law Section, NJ State Bar Association
- ▶ Founding Member, Academy of Special Needs Planners
- ▶ Founding Member, Council of Advanced Practitioners, National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys
- ▶ Accredited by the Department of Veterans Affairs
- ▶ Certified as a National Certified Guardian by the Center for Guardianship Certification
- ▶ Selected as a panelist on the Union County Probate Early Settlement Panel
- ▶ Approved as a Mediator under the New Jersey Court Rules
- ▶ Recognized as an Accredited Professional Mediator
- ▶ Former Director, NJ Association of Professional Mediators
- ▶ Named to the list of Top Rated NJ Lawyers
- ▶ Trained as a Collaborative Law Professional
- ▶ Former Social Security Claims Representative for SSI and Medicaid claims
- ▶ The Law Office of Donald D. Vanarelli is [A+ rated](#) by the Better Business Bureau

### **Additional Information**

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** regarding Guardianship and Fiduciary Services, call us at **908-232-7400** or [click here](#) to contact us online.



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