



NEWS RELEASE

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For further information, contact Judge Johnson at (231) 348-1748

Amanda Guarisco Appointed as New Friend of the Court



Amanda Guarisco is Emmet County's new Friend of the Court.

The Honorable Charles W. Johnson, judge of the 57th Circuit Court, recently announced his selection of Amanda J. Guarisco as Emmet County's new Friend of the Court (FOC), filling a vacancy created with the retirement of longtime FOC director Maurine Watts.

Guarisco, an Emmet County native, resides in Alanson with her husband and three children. She attended Spring Arbor University, graduating in 2014 with a bachelor's degree in social work. She furthered her education by attaining a Master of Science degree in administration from Central Michigan University in 2018.

Prior to taking the lead role in the FOC office, Guarisco was employed as a Children's Services Specialist with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. In this position, she was responsible for investigating complaints regarding the abuse or

neglect of children. Her prior work experience also includes administrative and leadership roles in both the private and public sectors, and providing in-home intervention services to children and families.

Guarisco also possesses the background experience of several years of successful co-parenting.

"I believe that we, as parents, should hold ourselves accountable in understanding the importance of, and put our best efforts into, practicing healthy co-parenting relationships because this is directly related to the physical, mental and emotional health of our children," said Guarisco.

It was Guarisco's strong academic background, together with her relevant work experience, that convinced Judge Johnson she had demonstrated she is deeply committed to helping children and families in our community.

"I am honored to have been selected as the new Emmet County Friend of the Court and plan to continue dedicating myself to the children and families of our community," Guarisco said. "I have begun adapting to new requirements, implementing changes and addressing needs to allow the Friend of the Court office to run efficiently and effectively for the parties we serve. My goal is to maintain an office where all parties feel welcome and heard, while ensuring that children and families receive the financial and custodial support they need through continued solid enforcement efforts and dispute resolution services."

Guarisco commenced service in her new position on September 8, 2020.

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