

## WHEN A PERSON CANNOT SPEAK.....

The inability to speak does not mean an inability to communicate. When a person cannot speak or process language, it is the responsibility of the person seeking information to find out how the non-speaking person communicates. Legal and clinical professionals may have to assume this responsibility when meeting a non-speaking client.

The clients may include people with:

- Developmental disabilities
- Physical disabilities
- Head injury
- Dementia
- Mental illness
- Learning disabilities
- Central auditory processing disorder

## COMMUNICATION IS.....

Communication is an interchange of information between two or more individuals. Communication can be verbal, non-verbal, or a combination of the two.

Verbal communication refers to words, phrases, and sentences that the person is able to produce.

Non-verbal communication is communication without spoken words.



**GANJI**

**The Mission of the Guardianship Association of New Jersey, Inc.**, is to be a resource for guardians and advocates including families, professionals, and concerned individuals who are involved in the lives of persons needing assistance. The organization provides education and a referral network and promotes ethical standards of practice.

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Each Education Institute publication treats an aspect of Guardianship. Other issues may apply to individual cases. Users are advised to consult an attorney if legal action is contemplated.



**EDUCATION INSTITUTE**

**Pamphlet Series**

**# 6**

**GUARDIANSHIP AND  
SURROGATE DECISION MAKING  
Communicating  
with people who may be  
Non Verbal or have  
Communication Impairments  
Information for Professionals and  
Families**

Helpful Hints for  
Judges  
Attorneys  
Physicians  
Psychologists  
Social Workers  
Care Managers  
Families

The Guardianship Association of  
New Jersey, Inc. (GANJI)

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