
Colorado Office of Public Guardianship

Director, Sophia M. Alvarez

Commissioners

Kelsey Lesco, Chair
Karen Kelley, Vice-Chair
Deb Bennett-Woods
Marco Chayet
Alison Zinn



1300 Broadway
Denver, CO 80203

(303) 606-2500
Info@Colorado-opg.org

PRESS RELEASE

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CONTACT:

Sophia M. Alvarez
Director
Sophia.Alvarez@Colorado-opg.org
303.606.2500

DENVER – The Colorado Office of Public Guardianship Commission and Director announce the launch of the Colorado Office of Public Guardianship Pilot Program in the 2nd Judicial District.

The Colorado Office of Public Guardianship Pilot Program will provide guardianship services to adult Colorado citizens who lack the mental capacity to act on their own behalf, are without appropriate relatives or friends to serve as guardian, or lack any other resources to assist them with basic decisions regarding health care, living arrangements, and all other needs to ensure their safety and well-being.

A 2014 population-based extrapolation model estimated that approximately 5,800 individuals statewide may need public guardianship services. Benefits of public guardianship services may include:

- Reduced delays in the treatment, discharge or transfer of an incapacitated individual thus promoting better health outcomes and cost savings.
- Reduce the time incapacitated individuals are unnecessarily confined in restrictive institutionalized settings such as hospitals or jails or may become homeless.
- Reduce costs to state services such as Medicaid, Adult Protective Services (APS) and law enforcement.

- Provide the Courts the ability to secure appointment of a guardian where needed, including the appointment of a guardian for individuals determined permanently incompetent to proceed in criminal matters.
- Allow APS to focus on investigation of referrals for adult neglect, abuse and exploitation.
- Provide uniform guardianship services and ensure guardians act in accordance with the highest ethical standards.

Beginning April 30, 2020, Colorado Office of Public Guardianship will accept referrals for nomination of the Office for permanent guardianship petitions. The online referral process is available through the Colorado Office of Public Guardianship website at

<https://colorado-opg.org/opg-referral-process/>

Please see the attached checklist for a brief outline of the process and the information needed to complete a referral.

Individuals that do not have the ability to complete an online referral may contact the Colorado Office of Public Guardianship at 303.606.2500.

As the Colorado Office of Public Guardianship must report to the General Assembly on Colorado's unmet need for guardianship services, the Office is requesting that referrals for individuals residing outside of Denver County, complete a streamlined referral process through the website at

<https://colorado-opg.org/opg-referral-process/create-an-application-for-non-denver-county-constituent/>

This will allow the Office to collect data that will impact the General Assembly's determination to continue, expand, or discontinue the Colorado Office of Public Guardianship Pilot Program.



COLORADO OFFICE OF PUBLIC GUARDIANSHIP

Website: www.Colorado-OPG.org
Phone: 303.606.2500

Please use this checklist as a guide to gather appropriate documentation to complete your referral to the Colorado Office of Public Guardianship.

DEMOGRAPHICS

- Name of Alleged Incapacitated Person (AIP)
- Date of birth (Must be 21 or older)
- Address
- Social Security Number
- County of residency
- Race/Ethnicity
- Gender
- Veteran Status
- Confirmation of no pending guardianship proceedings by Adult Protective Services

INCOME AND ASSETS INFORMATION

- AIP income sources – Employment, SSI, SSDI, Private retirement, Any other earned income, etc.
- Owner of real property and address
- Owner of a vehicle and vehicle description (Make/Model/Year/Color)
- Credit Card and Bank Accounts/Statements
- Trust/Annuities
- Life Insurance/Burial Insurance

INCAPACITY INFORMATION

- Diagnoses (Primary/Secondary & Additional)
- Attach medical records, psychological, and neuropsychological evaluations to support diagnoses
- Provide a description of how these diagnoses limit the AIP and deems them as incapacitated
- History of Substance Abuse

BENEFITS INFORMATION

- Name and contact information of AIP's Caseworker (Long-term care, Medicaid/Medicare, Veteran's Association, Adult Protection, etc.)
- Active/Denied Food stamps
- Active/Denied Medicaid
- Active/Denied Medicare
- Social Security Administration (SSA) benefits
- SSA Representative Payee contact information
- Veteran's Administration (VA) benefits
- VA Fiduciary contact information
- Aid to the Aged, Blind, and Disabled (AABD)

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FAMILY AND SUPPORT CONTACT INFORMATION

- Name and contact information of all known family members
- Specific steps taken to contact each family member and to assess appropriateness
- Name and contact information of known interested friends
- Steps taken to contact each interested friend and to assess appropriateness

ATTACHMENTS

- Proposed Petition
- Evaluations and medical documentation
- Income documentation (Employment, SSI, SSDI, Private retirement, any other earned income, etc.)
- Banks statements and Credit card statements
- Letter from SSA approving the Representative Payee

PENDING CRIMINAL OR OTHER PROCEEDINGS

- Criminal charges and outstanding warrants
- Child Custody, Divorce, Child support
- Immigration
- Please include case identification information, including county and case number, and upcoming hearing, if applicable

REFERRAL PROCESS

- A referring party is required to Register on the CO OPG website. Once registered, the referring party can Complete a Referral on the Colorado OPG website.
- A complete referral will allow the Colorado OPG to determine if the alleged incapacitated person (AIP) meets the statutory requirements of the OPG. If the referral meets the Colorado OPG eligibility requirements AND the Colorado OPG has the caseload capability, the Colorado OPG will file, or provide, an Acceptance of Appointment with the Denver Probate Court.
- A referral will not be considered complete until all information is adequately provided. The Colorado OPG will notify the referring party that the information was received and if it is considered complete or incomplete. The Colorado OPG may contact the referring party for clarifying information.
- An incomplete referral will not be considered. The referring party has 30 days to complete and update the referral. At 30 days, the referral will automatically be closed and the Colorado OPG will not notify the referring party. A new referral will need to be completed if the party wishes to nominate the OPG.