Before Considering the Public Guardianship for the Elderly Program

Service through a conservatorship appointment involves taking away the right of self-determination. It is recommended that all available alternatives be explored thoroughly before choosing this course of action. Consultation with doctors, attorneys and social workers may help in this decision.

- All other possibilities for needed assistance should be considered, including supportive services provided through other agencies.
- When there is an obvious need for conservatorship service, encourage family members, friends or an appropriate institution to accept this responsibility.
- When the services of the Public Guardianship for the Elderly Program are deemed appropriate by the District Public Conservator, an application form will be required prior to acceptance into the program. This form should be completed by the person requesting this service.

Public Guardianship Program District Office Locations

Johnson City, TN 423-928-0224
Counties: Carter, Greene, Hancock, Hawkins, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi, Washington

Knoxville, TN 423-691-2551
Counties: Anderson, Blount, Campbell, Claiborne, Cocke, Grainger, Hamblen, Jefferson, Knox, Loudon, Monroe, Morgan, Roane, Scott, Sevier, Union

Chattanooga, TN 423-424-4200
Counties: Bledsoe, Bradley, Grundy, Hamilton, McMinn, Marion, Meigs, Polk, Rhea, Sequatchie

Cookeville, TN 931-432-4111
Counties: Cannon, Clay, Cumberland, DeKalb, Fentress, Jackson, Macon, Overton, Pickett, Putnam, Smith, Van Buren, Warren, White

Nashville, TN 615-862-8828
Counties: Cheatham, Davidson, Dickson, Houston, Humphreys, Montgomery, Robertson, Rutherford, Stewart, Sumner, Trousdale, Williamson, Wilson

Columbia, TN 931-381-2040
Counties: Bedford, Coffee, Franklin, Giles, Hickman, Lawrence, Lewis, Lincoln, Marshall, Maury, Moore, Perry, Wayne

Martin, TN 901-587-4213
Counties: Benton, Carroll, Crockett, Dyer, Gibson, Henry, Lake, Obion, Weakley

Jackson, TN 901-668-6405
Counties: Chester, Decatur, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Henderson, McNairy, Madison

Memphis, TN 901-324-6333
Counties: Fayette, Lauderdale, Shelby, Tipton

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PUBLIC GUARDIANSHIP FOR THE ELDERLY PROGRAM

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A non-profit program providing conservatorship and related fiduciary services to older citizens of Tennessee

Tennessee Commission on Aging
Nashville, TN 37243-0860
(615) 741-2056

WORKING FOR OLDER TENNESSEANS
Since 1963

Service Mission

The Public Guardianship for the Elderly Program is designed to aid persons 60 years of age and older who are unable to manage their own affairs and who have no family member, friend, bank or corporation willing and able to act on their behalf.

Service Locations

Assistance is available state-wide through the services of a District Public Conservator located in each of nine planning and service areas. All 95 counties of the state are served through offices located in these cities:

Johnson City
Knoxville
Chattanooga
Cookeville
Nashville
Columbia
Martin
Jackson
Memphis

Service Eligibility

Persons aged 60 and older are eligible for this service. There are no minimum income requirements.

Service Provision

Conservator: The District Public Conservator may, through court appointment, legally make decisions for the care and manage the person and/or property of a disabled individual. This court procedure is initiated by a petition. The petitioner may be a family member, friend or agency which is familiar with the circumstances of the disabled person.

Durable Power of Attorney: The District Public Conservator may be granted authorization to carry out specific actions on behalf of another person at that person's request. The powers granted may be tailored to the specific needs of the requesting individual.

(1) Durable Power of Attorney for Finances - this document is used to grant the District Public Conservator the authority to manage a person's finances and/or property.

(2) Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care - this document authorizes the District Public Conservator to make health care decisions for a person when that individual can no longer make his or her own decisions.

Service Referral

Referrals for services through the Public Guardianship for the Elderly Program are appropriate when persons age 60 and older are unable to manage their affairs and when there are no family members, friends or institutions able and willing to serve. Although District Public Conservators may not petition the court on behalf of persons seeking service, they can provide information and guidance on proper procedure. Contact the district Public Conservator serving the county of residence of the person needing assistance.

Service Cost

There is no charge for services provided by the Public Guardianship for the Elderly Program if the client meets the cost exemption guidelines set by the Tennessee Commission on Aging. When a fee is appropriate, it is based upon a sliding schedule established by that agency. The fees for conservatorship services must be approved and set by the court. Donations and memorial gifts to the program are acceptable. All monies received remain in the local district and are used to increase service to its citizens through the Public Guardianship for the Elderly Program.