GENERAL MEETING INFO

ETHICAL DILEmmas, PART 2: 4 NEW CASE STUDIES

The speakers for the January Association Meeting are Irene Rausch and Steve Hitchcock. Their topic is Ethical Dilemmas Part 2: 4 New Case Studies.

Should my ward in a SNF vote absentee ballot?
Should I use this realtor again?
Should I take action against the attorney I fired?
Should I resign as DPOA?

....Do several of these sound familiar?

Steve Hitchcock, Esq.
Irene Rausch

MEMBERSHIP DUES

A friendly reminder that Membership renewals are due. Please check your profile on our website for accuracy and to see if your Membership is up-to-date.

ASSOCIATION COMMUNICATIONS CONTACT INFO.

P.O. Box 1826
Pinellas Park, FL 33780
(517) 256-0403
Info@GuardianAssociation.org

MONTHLY CALENDAR

JANUARY 10, 9:30 A.M. BOARD MEETING
Palms of Largo - REGAL PALMS Bldg., VERANDAH ROOM

JANUARY 10, 11:30 A.M. ASSOCIATION MEETING
Palms of Largo - CYPRESS PALMS Bldg., 400 Lake Avenue NE, Largo
1 CEU available

JANUARY 26, 9:00 A.M. GAPC NETWORKING BREAKFAST
HealthSouth, 901 Clearwater-Largo Rd., Largo 33770

PLEASE RSVP TO ASSOCIATION WEBSITE
THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT...

So the holidays are passed, the trees are down and we are all trying to get back in the routine of things. Before we move forward, I want to send out a big thank you to those that attended the December member meeting and installation of officers. We had a great turnout and an enjoyable time reflecting on the successes and growth of 2017.

In addition, we had the honor and privilege of celebrating Phyllis Johnson for the 15+ years of support and dedication she has shown the GAPC and community as editor of the GAPC Newsletter. Phyllis has given countless hours of her time in assisting with anything that was asked of her. Her passion for Guardianship and the Association was apparent in all she touched. We look forward to continuing to work with Phyllis as she steps into her role of Public Relations committee member. Thank you Phyllis!

TRACI
Traci.Flguardianship@gmail.com

COMMITTEE MEETING TIMES

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
Meets 3rd Thursday of month at 10:00 a.m., Perkins Restaurant, 2626 Gulf to Bay Blvd., Clearwater beginning January 18th, 2018.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE
First meeting of the year will be Tuesday, January 9th, 2018, 4:00 p.m., Maria’s Adult Day Care Center, 7821 Seminole Blvd., Seminole.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE
First meeting of the year will be Wednesday, January 10th. 2018, 1:15 - 2:00 p.m., Cypress Palms Assisted Living, 400 Lake Avenue, NE, Largo.
A MESSAGE FROM THE CLERK’S OFFICE

Just some helpful reminders and information for Professional Guardians:

- **Changes to Guardianship Report forms** — Thanks for your feedback on the 6th Circuit Guardianship Forms. We are making a few changes to the forms such as removing the grey background and updating the plan due date information. These changes should help with printing, scanning, and e-filing your reports, as well as the timely submission of your reports. Please download the latest version on our website when completing a form.

- **Change of residence or relocation of ward** — There have been some changes to the statute that may need clarification:
  - If the ward’s residence has changed, but is still within Pinellas or Pasco Counties, the guardian shall file a notice of the change with the court. The notice shall state the compelling reasons for relocation of the ward and how long the guardian expects the ward to remain in such other county, per FS 744.1098(2).
  - If the ward’s residence has changed to a county other than Pinellas or Pasco Counties, the guardian shall file a petition authorizing the removal of the ward and include in the petition the reason for relocation and the longevity of such relocation per FS 744.1098(1).
  - If the ward’s residence is other than Pinellas or Pasco Counties, the guardian shall file a petition to change venue of the guardianship per F.S. 744.1097(3) and Florida Probate Rule 5.050(b).

- **Maintenance fees of Professional Guardians ($7.50) are due by January 31st of each year**, regardless of when you were appointed to a case. Guardians who mail in their payment, are encouraged to provide a self-addressed, stamped envelope to get their receipt sent back to them. These fees are per guardian, not per case, but since they are paid on a case may sometimes be overlooked when another case is audited. The Clerk’s office tries to prevent such lapses, but hanging on to your receipt is helpful for all!

- Often, Guardian Advocates are supposed to file an Individual Education Plan, or Disabled Services Plan, or Habilitation Plan in lieu of an Annual Guardianship Plan. However, if the ward is not in a facility or program that offers a plan, or you are on a waiting list to get a plan and your due date is approaching, please use the Initial or Annual Guardianship Plan offered on mypinellasclerk.org. This is a simple form to complete and will allow you to meet your due date.

**HOW TO CONTACT US:**

Please feel free to contact the Probate Court Records department by calling (727) 464-3321, or sending an email to probate@mypinellasclerk.org.
Each year under Federal and State Law the Income and Asset limits determining Medicaid eligibility are updated. SSI (Supplemental Security Income) programs include Medicaid programs for individuals that are 65 years or older or disabled. The Financial Standards list is available at:

http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/access/docs/esspolicymanual/a_09.pdf.

**BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR SMMC LONG TERM CARE and PACE APPLICANT:**

- Must be 65 years of age or blind or disabled (18 years of age or older) for SMMC long term care.
- Must be 55 years of age, disabled if under 65 and live in Pinellas County for the PACE program.
- U.S. Citizen or a qualified alien.
- Must have a Social Security number or file for a Social Security number.
- File for all benefits you may be entitled.
- Assign rights to State of Florida to collect private health insurance benefits.
- Florida resident, anyone residing in a nursing home or assisted living facility that is certified for Medicaid is considered to be a resident of Florida.
- Determined by the Department of Elder Affairs CARES office that you meet the level of care required. (Form 3008 must be completed). For assisted living care (ALF care) a form 1823 must be completed by the applicant’s physician prior to admission. The requirements for assisted living are documented in the Florida Administrative Code at http://florida.eregulations.us/rule/58a-5.0181.
- Asset Limit of $2,000 ($5,000 if the applicant’s gross income is $885 per month or less). If married the community spouse must meet the asset limit of $123,600.
- Monthly Gross Income Limit of less than $2,250. A Qualified Income Trust or Pooled Trust must be established to become eligible for Medicaid if the gross income exceeds this limit.

**INCOME NOT INCLUDED IN THE $2,205 INCOME LIMIT:**

- VA Aid and Attendance.
- VA Un-reimbursed Medical Expense payments.
- Life Insurance dividends.

**Income Considerations:**

- The applicant for Nursing Home care is allowed to keep $105 of their income for personal expenses; this is known as the Personal Needs Allowance. (Some individuals who receive VA Aid and Attendance Benefits are allowed to keep an additional $90).
- The amount of income the applicant is allowed to keep for personal needs for other Long Term Care programs fluctuates.
- If the applicant is paying for a supplemental insurance policy, the amount of the premium will be deducted from the patient responsibility calculation.

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* If the applicant has a community spouse, he/she may be eligible for a community spouse income allowance. Medicaid will review the income and expenses of the community spouse (rent, mortgage payment, condominium maintenance fee, property taxes, homeowner’s insurance, and a standard utility allowance of $347) and determine if any of the applicant’s income can be paid to the community spouse.
* If the applicant has a minor or dependent adult child, dependent parent, or dependent sibling, a family allowance may be permitted. The family member must be living with the community spouse.
* If there is not a community spouse, there may be an income allowance for unmarried children under the age of 21 or disabled adult children.
* If the applicant or the applicant’s deceased spouse is a Veteran, he/she must apply for Veteran benefits.

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**December 2017 Holiday Party**

**Installation of 2018 Board Members**

Honoring Phyllis Johnson (right) for 15+ years of service to GAPC

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**PayPal**

The Guardian Association of Pinellas County encourages all members and/or vendors to utilize PayPal for all transactions with the GAPC. You do not need to have an account to pay with PayPal.

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**Follow Us on Social Media**

Guardians and Healthcare professionals can exchange ideas, ask questions, seek solutions, build a network, and receive helpful info/updates through social messaging.