



Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach  
County Public Guardianship  
Program

### Contact Information



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**PROTECTING FLORIDA'S  
MOST VULNERABLE CITIZENS**



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Palm Beach County  
-  
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Leadership & Funding for Justice in Florida

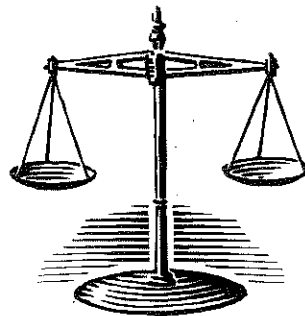
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America's elderly population has grown substantially in the last century. According to the last census, our senior populations will more than double between now and the year 2050.

This reality presents a significant challenge for South Florida which is already highly populated by elderly individuals. It will mean providing more and better quality solutions to caring for elderly and other adults who are mentally or physically challenged, poor and socially isolated.

The Public Guardianship Program of the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County was created to address the guardianship needs of the indigent elderly as well as other adults who may be subject to abuse or neglect because they have no one to care for them. The Public Guardianship Program is a program of last resort, once all other options for oversight and care have been exhausted.



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### Who needs guardianship?

If your clients, friends or family lack the capacity to make their own decisions and have not made plans to address this possibility, they may need a court-appointed guardian. A guardian may be an individual or corporation that is appointed by court order to manage some or all the affairs of another.

### We may be able to help the vulnerable citizens get public guardianship ...

Public guardianship is for incapacitated persons who lack a willing and qualified family member or friend and who do not have adequate income or assets for the compensation of private guardians. If the vulnerable citizens are indigent and have no willing or qualified family member or friend to serve as guardian, they need public guardians and we may be able to help them get a guardian.

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### How to obtain public guardianship for the vulnerable citizens?

Anyone including nursing homes, Department of Children and Families, courts, and social service agencies can refer a potential ward to our office.

When there is an opening and the person appears eligible, we accept the referral, and the referring party files the petition for public guardianship with the court.

### After appointment, what services does the Public Guardianship Program provide?

It provides a full range of case management services, including but not limited to managing property, ensuring compliance of medical needs, paying living expenses, response to emergency situations, and preserving the personal dignity of the wards.