

SUPREME COURT OF COLORADO
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE

ORDER

**Establishing the Public Guardian Advisory
Committee and Charge to the Committee**

Colorado lacks sufficient systems to protect incapacitated adults who do not have appropriate family or friends available to act as guardian. For high-risk, low-income persons there is no money to hire a professional fiduciary. Additionally, the State of Colorado does not have a public guardianship program or other resources that could address the needs of these vulnerable people.

In its final report to the General Assembly, the Elder Abuse Task Force, created by Senate Bill 12-078, recommended further study of the need for and implementation of a public guardianship system in Colorado. In order to better understand the approaches to public guardianship that may work best in Colorado, the Public Guardian Advisory Committee is hereby established and charged with the following tasks:

- **Assess the current system and the unmet need for public guardianship services in Colorado**
- **Identify workable options and models to address the need for public guardianship services**
- **Analyze the options identified including the cost, availability of viable funding sources, potential staffing needs, ethical considerations, and unintended consequences**
- **Recommend a model and implementation strategies that best address statewide public guardianship needs in Colorado**

The Public Guardian Advisory Committee shall report back to the Chief Justice with their findings and recommendations on or before April 30, 2014.


The following persons are appointed to serve as members of the Public Guardian Advisory Committee:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Hon. Elizabeth Leith (Chair)	Denver Probate Court
Hon. Stephen Munsinger	1 st Judicial District
Hon. Michael Singer	13 th Judicial District
Hon. Mark MacDonnell	16 th Judicial District
Hon. Mary Deganhart	7 th Judicial District

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Kelly Perez	Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor
Peggy Rogers	Colorado Department of Human Services
Nancy Sharpe	Arapahoe County Commissioner
M. Carl Glatstein	Elder Law Bar
Sarah Solano	Guardianship Alliance of Colorado
Amy Nofziger	AARP Foundation
Dr. Deb Bennett-Woods	Colorado Collaborative for Unrepresented Patients
Darla Stuart	ARC of Aurora
Dr. Rebecca Paskind	NASW Colorado
Mary Catherine Rabbitt	Legal Center for People with Disabilities and Older People
Arlene Miles	Colorado Health Care Association

Additional persons may be asked to serve as sub-committee members when deemed appropriate by this advisory committee as related to the goals and objectives assigned in this charge.

Done at Denver, Colorado this 3rd day of July, 2013.


 Michael L. Bender, Chief Justice