

ST. MARY'S COUNTY
ADULT PUBLIC GUARDIANSHIP REVIEW BOARD
ANNUAL REPORT – 2023

Introduction

The St. Mary's County Adult Public Guardianship Review Board (APGRB) was created through §14-401, et seq. of the Family Law Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland to make recommendations to the Court regarding the continuation, modification or termination of public guardianship of adults with disabilities who are citizens of St. Mary's County. Guardianship is held either through the Department of Social Services or the Department of Aging & Human Services. There were as many as six (6) adults under guardianship of the person through the Department of Social Services and nine (9) adults under guardianship of the person through the Department of Aging & Human Services for the year.

Accomplishments and Activities

Since the 2022 annual report, the APGRB has met twice (January 2023 and July 2023) to discuss the active guardianship cases. The APGRB meets twice a year to conduct a paper review of the guardianship cases and makes recommendations whether guardianship should continue, be modified, or terminated.

During the July 2023 review, the APGRB successfully reviewed all cases under the guardianship program and the Board recommended the continuation of guardianship for all but one (1) case. There was the addition of one (1) new board member in 2023.

Goals for 2024

One goal is to continue meeting semi-annually, in person, for the purpose of conducting a full review of the guardianship cases as presented by the Department of Social Services and the Department of Aging & Human Services. Board members will continue to offer their recommendations on all guardianship cases and will make decisions the Board determines are in the best interest of the persons under public guardianship.

Another goal is to continue working toward and maintaining a full complement of Board members and encourage different members to assume the positions of chair and vice chair, if selected/elected.

The Board president, or their designee, will request individual guardianship reports from the Department of Social Services and the Department of Aging & Human Services for each person currently under public guardianship. The reports will then be forwarded to the Circuit Court for St. Mary's County, Maryland.

Membership

The membership of the APGRB is set by statute, all of whom are appointed by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County. Membership for the year 2023 is as follows:

1. Lori Jennings-Harris – Vice Chair (Representative of a Local Commission on Aging – Department of Aging & Human Services)
2. Dr. Jennifer Willoughby - (Psychologist)
3. Sherry Pierce - (Registered Nurse)
4. Kathleen M. Werner - Reporting Secretary (Lawyer)
5. Dr. Rene` Grace - Chair (Physician)
6. Robin Johnson (Person with a Physical Disability)
7. Rose Miller – (Lay Individual)
8. Jasmine Cucinotta (Professional Representative of a Local Department - St. Mary's County Department of Social Services)
9. Dr. Joseph DeVitis (Lay Individual)
10. Vacant
11. Randall Ferguson (Professional Representative of a Local Non-profit Social Service Organization)

December 2023