

ST. MARY'S COUNTY
ADULT PUBLIC GUARDIANSHIP REVIEW BOARD
ANNUAL REPORT – 2025

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 ten (10) adults under guardianship of the person through the Department of Aging & Human Services and six (6) adults under guardianship of the person through the Department of Social Services for the year.

Accomplishments and Activities

Since the 2024 annual report, the APGRB met twice (January 2025 and July 2025) 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 2025 review, the APGRB successfully reviewed all cases under the guardianship program, and the Board recommended the continuation of guardianship for all cases.

Goals for 2026

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 Aging & Human Services and the Department of Social 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 Aging & Human Services and the Department of Social 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 2025 is as follows:

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

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