

MEETING NOTES

Guardianship Committee– Task Force on Preventing and Countering Elder Abuse

January 8, 2024

This meeting was held via video conference.

Members in Attendance:

Magistrate Sara D. Walsh, Chair

Steve Kensinger

Cornelia Bright-Gordon, Esq.

Leonard Croft

Zoe Breichner, Esq.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Magistrate Sara Walsh, chair, welcomed all and opened the meeting.

PURPOSE OF GUARDIANSHIP COMMITTEE

The Task Force is charged with studying existing laws, policies and practices relating to elder abuse and crimes committed against older adults and making recommendations regarding changes to State law, policy, and practice that would help prevent elder abuse. Each committee will identify areas of concern within its respective subtopic and prepare recommendations suited to address or absolve each concern. The analysis and recommendations of each committee will then be compiled into a report for the Task Force to submit to the Governor by December 31, 2024.

OBJECTIVES OF GUARDIANSHIP COMMITTEE

The expectations of members were discussed with the understanding that the objectives and scope of this committee will become more defined following the committee chair meeting. The members identified potential areas of concern for the committee to address, including:

- (1) A lack of guardians of the property willing to serve and the resulting crisis.
- (2) Issues that arise between guardians and banking institutions.
- (3) Inconsistent internal policies among jurisdictions and the effects on alleged disabled persons, disabled persons, attorneys, and local departments.

NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting will be determined via a poll that will be sent out to members following the committee chair meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Magistrate Sara D. Walsh adjourned the meeting.