



# **SOUTHEAST TENNESSEE AREA AGENCY ON AGING & DISABILITY**

## ***Public Guardianship for the Elderly Program***

The Public Guardianship for the Elderly Program is designed to aid persons 60 years of age and older who are unable to manage their own affairs and who have no family member, friend, bank or corporation willing and able to act on their behalf.

### **Who's Eligible?**

Persons aged 60 and older are eligible for this service. There are no minimum income requirements.

### **Are there other things to consider?**

Yes, service through a conservatorship appointment involves taking away the right of self-determination. It is recommended that all available alternatives be explored thoroughly before choosing this course of action. Consultation with doctors, attorneys, and social workers may help in this decision.

### **Service Provision**

#### **Conservator**

The District Public Conservator may, through court appointment, legally make decisions for the care and manage the person and/or property of a disabled individual. A petition initiates this court procedure. The petitioner may be a family member, friend or agency that is familiar with the circumstances of the disabled person.

#### **Durable Power of Attorney**

The District Public Conservator may be granted authorization to carry out specific actions on behalf of another person at that person's request. The powers granted may be tailored to the specific needs of the requesting individual.

#### **Durable Power of Attorney for Finances**

This document is used to grant the District Public Conservator the authority to manage a person's finances and/or property.

## **Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care**

This document authorizes the District Public Conservator to make health care decisions for a person when that individual can no longer make his or her own decisions.

## **Service Referral**

Referrals for services through the Public Guardianship for the Elderly Program are appropriate when persons age 60 and older are unable to manage their affairs. Although the District Public Conservator may not petition the court on behalf of persons seeking service, they can provide information and guidance on proper procedure. To make a referral to the program, you can call

**(423) 424-4274, (423) 424-4273  
or toll free at 1-866-836-6678.**

Assistance is available District wide in the following counties:  
Bledsoe, Bradley, Grundy, Hamilton, Marion,  
McMinn, Meigs, Polk, Rhea, and Sequatchie.

## **Cost**

There is no charge for clients who meet the cost exemption guideline set by the Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability. When a fee is appropriate, it is based on a sliding schedule established by that agency. The fees for conservatorship services must be approved and set by the court. Donations and memorial gifts to the program are acceptable. All monies received remain in Southeast Tennessee and are used to increase service to its citizens through the Public Guardianship for the Elderly Program.

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