

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
IN AND FOR PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 6.314-5/19

IN RE: ELDERCARING COORDINATION EDUCATION  
FOR PROFESSIONAL GUARDIANS,  
PUBLIC GUARDIANS AND COURT  
APPOINTED LAWYERS

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Florida Statute section 744.331 (2)(b) requires the court to appoint counsel for each person alleged to be incapacitated in all cases involving a petition for adjudication of incapacity. Florida Statute section 27.40(3)(a)1 empowers the Chief Judge to establish minimum requirements for court appointment of attorneys on the circuit's registry.

Professional and public guardians are appointed to serve incapacitated persons in the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit. The Fifteenth Judicial Circuit is a pilot project site for eldercaring coordination, which is an alternative dispute resolution process intended for use in cases involving high family conflict that poses a risk to the health, care and/or safety of aging, incapacitated person.

It is incumbent upon the professionals working with incapacitated persons and their families to be informed about processes that enable families of incapacitated persons to work more effectively with professionals who are also involved in the incapacity and guardianship cases.

**NOW THEREFORE**, pursuant to the authority conferred by Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.215, it is **ORDERED** as follows:

1. Attorneys who receive appointments for incapacity cases from the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit's Court Appointed Wheel must, within six months of being added to the registry of Chapter 744 attorneys, complete at least one hour of training on eldercaring coordination.
  - a. Proof of completion must be forwarded to Court Administration within ten (10) business days following the training.
  - b. Failure to provide proof of completion may result in the attorney being removed from the professional guardian wheel.
2. Professional guardians as defined in s. 744.102(17) and public guardians who seek court appointment to guardianship cases in the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit must, within six months

of being added to the rotation list, or six months from the signing of this Administration Order, complete a minimum of one hour of training on eldercaring coordination.

- a. Proof of completion must be forwarded to Court Administration within ten (10) business days following the training.
  - b. Failure to provide proof of completion may result in the professional guardian being removed from the incapacity wheel.
3. The eldercaring coordination training must be completed through a course approved or offered by the Office of Public and Professional Guardians, the Eldercaring Coordination Program offered through the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, the Florida Chapter of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, the Florida Supreme Court Dispute Resolution Center, or any other qualified provider approved by the Chief Judge or his/her designee.
  4. The expenses incurred to satisfy the educational requirements prescribed in this section may not be paid with the assets of any ward.
  5. The requirement to attend eldercaring coordination training is in addition to any requirements imposed by the Florida Bar and the Department of Elderly Affairs

7 **DONE and SIGNED** in Chambers at West Palm Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida, this day of May 2019.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Krista Marx", is written over a faint, circular watermark or seal. The signature is dark and fluid.

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Krista Marx, Chief Judge