
Colorado Office of Public Guardianship

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OFFICE OF PUBLIC GUARDIANSHIP

On June 5, 2017, Governor Hickenlooper signed HB17-1087, creating the Office of Public Guardianship Pilot Program.

The bill did not provide funding and, as a result, the Office is **solely dependent upon the receipt of gifts, grants and donations.**

Once funded, the Office will provide guardianship services to indigent and incapacitated adults who:

- have no responsible family members or friends who are available and appropriate to serve as a guardian; and
- lack adequate resources to compensate a private guardian and pay the costs and fees associated with an appointment proceeding.

The pilot will provide guardianship services for **incapacitated and indigent adults** in the **Second, Seventh, and Sixteenth Judicial Districts.** Until funding is obtained, services to the targeted judicial districts cannot occur.

At the end of the three-year pilot, the Office will also **issue a report to the legislature** quantifying Colorado's unmet need for public guardianship services and the average annual cost of providing these services to Coloradoans. The Office's report will also include the net cost or benefit to the state that may result from providing these needed services. Ultimately, the Office will assess whether an independent statewide office of public guardianship is needed.

The Commission, despite best efforts, has been unable to secure the funds necessary to carry out its charge. As a result, the Commission is seeking to amend the legislation and seek general fund appropriations to establish and fully fund the Office of Public Guardianship Pilot Program.