

# Office of Public Guardianship Pilot Program



## Background

Hospitals are often unable to safely discharge individuals who no longer require hospital-level services because the individual is incapacitated or indigent and requires assistance managing his or her affairs. Volunteer and county-level public guardianship programs have been unable to keep pace with the growing need for guardians across the state.

## HB 17-1087: Office of Public Guardianship Pilot Program

The Elder Abuse Task Force, created by Senate Bill 12-078, recommended further study of the need for public guardianship services in Colorado. As a result, the Public Guardianship Advisory Committee was formed to study the issue. The Advisory Committee submitted its recommendations for a pilot program in a report to the Chief Justice of the Colorado Supreme Court on July 31, 2014. [House Bill \(HB\) 17-1087](#) creates a pilot program to provide legal guardianship services for incapacitated and indigent adults.

## What You Need to Know

The pilot program, which will begin once the program receives at least \$1.7 million in grants or donations, will include providing services to those who:

- Lack family or friends available to serve as guardian;
- Do not have resources necessary for a private or other public guardianship service;
- Do not have any pending petition for guardian filed by county adult protective services; and
- Are located in the following Colorado Judicial Districts:
  - 2nd Judicial District: Denver County
  - 6th Judicial District: Archuleta, La Plata and San Juan Counties
  - 16th Judicial District: Bent, Crowley and Otero Counties

The pilot program will be overseen by a five-member commission that will gather data to determine the need for a statewide public guardianship program. The General Assembly will reevaluate the program in 2021.

## Additional Resources

- HB 17-1087: [Final Bill](#) and [Fiscal Note](#)
- HB 17-1087 took effect on June 5, 2017

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