



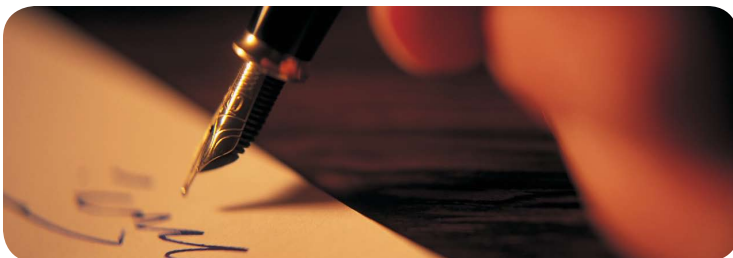
Welcome to the First Edition of SPGO's News & Notes Bulletin

Florida's guardianship community plays an important role in looking out for the interests of those who can't always look after themselves. To share useful information with the guardianship community, the Statewide Public Guardianship Office is launching News & Notes as an informal mechanism to share information with you. News & Notes will be published quarterly and will contain information relevant to professional and public guardians alike. We hope you find the publication helpful and look forward to your feedback.

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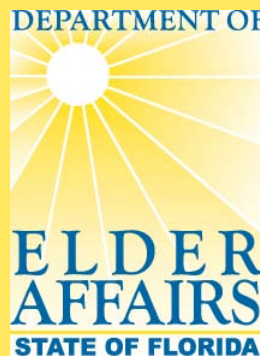
SPGO Implements Environmentally Friendly Changes

The Statewide Public Guardianship Office (SPGO) submitted an annual report to Governor Charlie Crist, Department of Elder Affairs Secretary E. Douglas Beach and members of the Florida Legislature, detailing many of the Office's accomplishments of 2008. Among the activities highlighted in the report are the implementation of electronic fingerprinting and online tracking of educational credits. Both projects provide users with easy, lower cost, and environmentally friendly alternatives to the procedures that were in place before. In addition, SPGO took another step to conserve the environment and state dollars by choosing not to print and bind the annual report. Instead, the 2008 report was submitted in an electronic format on disc. You can view the report in that same electronic format at <http://elderaffairs.state.fl.us/english/pubguard/SPGOannualreport2008WebVersion.pdf>.



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Professional Guardian Registration Changes are a Success

Professional guardians who find themselves in a bind have a new option, following the Statewide Public Guardianship Office's recent implementation of a new expedited processing service. SPGO frequently receives calls from frantic professional guardians who, for whatever reason, have missed their annual due date and need to have their registration reviewed much sooner than it otherwise would be. For an additional fee, professional guardians can now ask to have their paper-



work reviewed within two weeks, seven days, or even 48 hours. Although the new processing choices are optional, they are providing to be quite popular – a substantial number of professional guardians have utilized the expedited process since SPGO started it in fall 2008.

Another change adopted recently is based on a recommendation from the Florida State Guardianship Association. The Statewide Public Guardianship Office has begun issuing identification cards for professional guardians. The Association asked SPGO to begin providing a wallet-size card that includes the professional guardian's name, registration number and registration period. The ID card is issued at the same time the Office sends out its standard registration certificate. SPGO studied the Association's suggestion and determined it has the capability to issue identification cards, and concluded that the cards would produce a mutual benefit for both the Office and the guardians. The Statewide Public Guardianship Office is grateful to the state association for making the suggestion, which not only addresses a need among the professional guardians but also will serve as a reminder of their renewal date. We encourage suggestions like this and hope those in the guardianship community will continue to provide them to us.

TIPS FROM THE GREEN CORNER

Use your curtains or shades to control the temperature in your home. Open your south-facing curtains or shades during the day when the sun is shining, then close them at night. Curtains and window blinds provide an extra layer of insulation against the cold.

Reprinted from DOEA's The Curly Bulb

FIG UPDATE:

The Latest from the Foundation for Indigent Guardianship, Inc.

By the close of year 2008, the Foundation for Indigent Guardianship, Inc. (FIG), was privileged to have provided significant support to Florida's public guardians, in accordance with its charter as a direct support organization for the Statewide Public Guardianship Office.

During 2008, FIG awarded a total of \$245,054 to the public guardians in Palm Beach County, Broward County and Manatee County. The funds were made available through the State of Florida Public Guardianship Pooled Special Needs Trust. The Trust is designed specifically



Photo: Randy Pople, FIG Treasurer and Karen Campbell, Executive Director of the Office of the Public Guardian Inc., public guardian for Leon County.

for individuals with disabilities and ensures financial protection for both their public benefits and their quality of life.

In 2009, FIG will be unveiling a new website for the Pooled Trust to provide even more information about the program, as well as direct access links to all the state and federal agencies (Department of Elder Affairs, etc.) that are involved in services for people with disabilities.

As we enter this new year, the Foundation is currently finalizing significant awards that will be presented to the Public Guardians in Collier County and Martin County.

We thank you for the honor to serve the most helpless citizens in Florida – the wards of the court, whose only lifeline is the public guardians of the State of Florida.

Ron Morgan, Chairman
FIG President/CEO

SPGO TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

Shaun Williams ~ Program Monitor

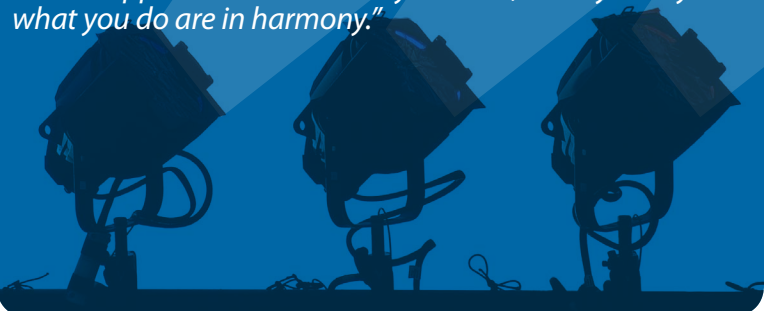
Ohio native and Florida transplant Shaun Williams has called Florida home for the better part of two decades. During that time, Shaun has worked to help others in both the private sector and the public sector. She has discovered that serving the people of the State through contract monitoring is her passion – she believes it is a calling to be a steward of the people's money.

Shaun came to the Statewide Public Guardianship Office with more than 20 years experience in private and public contract management and monitoring, involving all facets of procurement, contract administration, policy development and implementation, monitoring and oversight. Ms. Williams has played a key role in developing monitoring policy, procedures and tools.

Shaun is a member of the National Contract Management Association and the National Institute of Government Purchasing.

Shaun's philosophy is best represented by these words of Mahatma Gandhi:

"Happiness is when what you think, what you say and what you do are in harmony."



Statewide Public Guardianship Office

NEWS & Notes

FLORIDA'S PUBLIC GUARDIANS

AGING SAFELY, INC.

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AGING SOLUTIONS, INC.

Brevard, Hillsborough, Pasco and
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FAQ Focus

My annual registration is due. What information am I required to submit to SPGO?

- » A completed registration form
- » Registration fee
- » Proof of renewal of your \$50,000 blanket bond
- » Credit history every two years
- » FDLE criminal history every two years unless completed electronically by an SPGO-approved provider. If it is completed electronically, FDLE will automatically advise your local Clerk of Court of any changes and the Clerk must notify SPGO.
- » FBI criminal history every five years unless completed electronically by an SPGO-approved provider. If it is completed electronically, FDLE will automatically advise your local Clerk of Court of any changes and the Clerk must notify SPGO. For a list of SPGO-approved providers, see <http://elderaffairs.state.fl.us>.

In the next issue of News & Notes Legislative Update *and more*

Please send us your suggestions for future issues.