

2007 YEAR IN REVIEW

STATEWIDE PUBLIC GUARDIANSHIP OFFICE ANNUAL REPORT 2007



Mission

To ensure that every Floridian who requires the services of a guardian has access to a qualified guardian.



Executive Summary

It is so easy to get caught up in our daily tasks and lose sight of why we all work so hard. Sometimes it takes hearing a story of tremendous obstacles to remind us of how important the role of a guardian is in our society. A news story earlier this year, out of Manatee County, was a perfect reminder to us at the Statewide Public Guardianship Office of the importance of guardianship. Sometimes all it takes is hearing the plight of one person to keep us focused on our mission.

In this instance, it was the story of Mr. Ronald Larsen. A former caretaker left Mr. Larsen at an assisted living facility. He is unable to communicate, and there was no one to speak on his behalf. He had no advance directive and nobody ever sought guardianship for him. Mr. Larsen had a cancerous lesion on his face that went untreated for many months and was worsening. The lesion got so bad that it began to produce an extremely unpleasant odor. It was not until a public guardian, who was visiting another client in the facility, questioned staff about the smell coming from Mr. Larsen's room that Mr. Larsen got noticed. Ashley Butler, the public guardian for Manatee County saw Mr. Larsen and his horrific condition. Ms. Butler did something about it; she became Mr. Larsen's voice, his guardian. Ms. Butler got Mr. Larsen the appropriate medical care and was able to change the outcome of his life.

The story of Mr. Larsen begs the question, where would he, and others like him, be today if it were not for the actions of a guardian? It is for the Mr. Larsens of our state that we all must work together to ensure every Floridian that requires the services of a guardian has access to a qualified guardian. For these reasons, we at the Statewide Office take our statutory role very seriously.

This year's annual report includes stories such as Mr. Larsen's, reminders to all of us how important a guardian's role is in our society. This report also includes a synopsis of our activities during 2007. It was with great pleasure that the Statewide Public Guardianship Office participated in an invitational symposium on guardianship monitoring in Washington, D.C., conducted by AARP's Public Policy Institute in collaboration with the American Bar Association's Commission on Law and Aging.

We were also privileged to have the president of the National Guardianship Association and the executive director of the Center for Guardianship Certification come to Tallahassee to meet with the Statewide Public Guardianship Office. Also, we initiated the rule making process to implement electronic fingerprinting and to update the professional guardian registration form. Finally, we continued to focus on securing a permanent funding source for public guardianship.

Our direct support organization, The Foundation for Indigent

Guardianship, Inc., made its first donation to public guardianship from the Florida Public Guardianship Pooled Special Needs Trust, and for the fourth consecutive year, Florida celebrated National Guardianship Month during October.

As one can see, 2007 was a year full of activity for the Statewide Public Guardianship Office - activities that would not have been possible without the support of Governor Charlie Crist and Secretary Doug Beach. We are grateful for their commitment to guardianship issues.

Michelle R. Hollister, Esq.
Executive Director

2007 Year in Review

AARP and the America Bar Association's (ABA) Commission on Law and Aging's Guardianship Monitoring Symposium in Washington, D.C.

It was with great pleasure that the Statewide Public Guardianship Office participated in an invitational symposium on guardianship monitoring in Washington, DC, conducted by AARP's Public Policy Institute in collaboration with the ABA Commission on Law and Aging.

The symposium focused on their two-year exploration of adult guardianship monitoring through a survey of experts, site visits, interviews and more.

The Statewide Public Guardianship Office was invited to join the interdisciplinary group of experts to help assess and to formulate promising practices on guardianship monitoring for wide dissemination.

The Statewide Office not only had the opportunity to contribute, but more importantly to learn from national experts.

This office was able to gather information about national best practices regarding annual reporting, asset protection, court assistance with reporting requirements, court enforcement of reporting, guardianship investigations and the use of technology in guardianship proceedings.

The National Guardianship Association and the Center for

Guardianship Certification Meeting in Tallahassee

The president of the National Guardianship Association and the executive director of the Center for Guardianship Certification came to Tallahassee to meet with the Statewide Public Guardianship Office. This productive meeting resulted in renewal of the contract between Florida and the Center for Guardianship Certification and expansion of the availability of the Florida Professional Guardian Competency Examination.

The renewed contract continues to provide tremendous benefit to the State of Florida by offering the Professional Guardian Competency Examination to professional guardians at half of the cost allowed under Florida Statutes and at no cost to the state.

Guardianship Acronyms

SPGO: The Statewide Public Guardianship Office, within the Florida Department of Elder Affairs, is the program responsible for designating Florida's public guardians as well as registering Florida's professional guardians. Professional guardians are required to register with SPGO annually in accordance with Florida law.

FSGA: The Florida State Guardianship Association is a voluntary association of professional guardians from across Florida. Florida law does not require membership in FSGA.

NGA: The National Guardianship Association is also a voluntary association of professional guardians from across the United States. Florida law does not require membership in NGA.

NGF/CGC: The National Guardianship Foundation was the allied foundation of the NGA that the Statewide Public Guardianship Office contracted with to provide Florida's Professional Guardian Competency Examination. NGF was renamed in July 2007 as CGC, the Center for Guardianship Certification. Florida's professional guardians are required to pass the Professional Guardian Competency Examination from the CGC (or previously the NGF).

RG: This is an acronym for Registered Guardian used by the CGC (Formally NGF) to designate persons who have passed the exam and who pay a fee to CGC for the designation. Although passage of the CGC exam automatically deems a professional guardian a RG with the CGC, maintaining this national RG designation and its related fees are not required by Florida law.

MG: This is an acronym for Master Guardian used by the CGC (formally NGF) to designate persons who have passed a second exam given by the CGC and who pay a fee to CGC for the designation. The MG designation and its related fees are not required by Florida law.

Further, the online examination process was implemented and this meeting resulted in the development of a new project to train professional guardian course providers as examination proctors. This will provide students with the option of taking the examination in a familiar setting, without the expense of travel.

Legislative Session

One of the most often-heard statements across the state is, "Why do I need to get fingerprinted every two years? My fingerprints do not change!" Previously the only way for the Statewide Public Guardianship Office and the judiciary to receive professional guardian FBI criminal history records was if a professional guardian was fingerprinted via a fingerprint card.

During the 2006 Legislative Session, the legislature gave the Statewide Public Guardianship Office the ability to accept criminal

history records via electronic fingerprinting and for Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) to retain those prints. This will eliminate the need for fingerprint cards.

We delayed implementation until this year because of some unintended language in the 2006 legislation providing that this office also accepts non-professional guardians' fingerprints. Since this office does not have any authority over non-professional guardians there needed to be legislation clarifying our role.

The 2007 Legislative Session passed the needed change to the statutes governing professional guardian criminal history records. House Bill 7111, signed into law, limited the use of electronic fingerprinting to professional guardians.

This change allowed for this office to begin implementation of electronic fingerprinting.

At the time this report was com-

pleted, we were in the final stages of the rule-making process, providing electronic fingerprinting guidelines.

Electronic Fingerprinting

There are many advantages to utilizing electronic fingerprinting. Professional guardians only need to be electronically printed once, there is a significant time-saving, and there is a cost savings as well. With a fingerprint card, a professional guardian has to visit his or her clerk of court's probate office to get the fingerprint card, get fingerprinted, return the card and wait about six weeks for the results to be returned to the clerk's office, and then the clerk had to send them to the Statewide Public Guardianship Office. With electronic fingerprinting, the professional guardian goes directly to one of our approved vendors, and, usually within hours, the results are e-mailed to both the professional guardian's clerk of courts office and the Statewide Public

Collier County Public Guardian

In January of 2006, a 69-year-old Haitian U.S. resident male was transported to the hospital. Upon admission, his condition was considered grave as he suffered from septic shock due to a large sacral/coccyx stage IV decubitus ulcer, severe dehydration, a cerebral vascular accident and cellulitis. During his course of treatment, he was also found to suffer from deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary emboli. The hospital instituted guardianship proceedings. Upon appointment, the public guardian discovered that the patient lived in Immokalee with his wife who had left to visit friends in Haiti.

The guardian authorized aggressive treatment for the patient and on or about February 6, 2006, the guardian authorized the transfer of the patient from the hospital to a skilled nursing facility. The guardian's office also made contact with the client's wife who returned to Florida to be by her husband's side. As the client continued to improve, the guardian petitioned the court to restore his rights and the guardianship was reduced to a limited guardianship with the client retaining the right to vote, apply for government benefits, and retain social rights. As the client further improved, the guardian petitioned the court for restoration of rights again and on July 25, 2007, the client was fully restored all of his rights. On August 10, 2007, the client returned home to live with his wife.

Over the approximately 17 months of the guardianship, the public guardian was successful in participating in the aggressive treatment and care of a person who the treating physician did not feel would survive. The patient has now fully recovered and all rights have been restored, and he is now living actively in the community.

Patrick C. Weber, Esq., Collier County Public Guardian

2007 YEAR IN REVIEW

Guardianship Office. The cost savings is also evident, as the FBI, effective October 2007, actually lowered the cost for electronic fingerprinting while raising the cost for using the fingerprints cards.

Once the rule-making process to implement electronic fingerprinting is completed, we will release the names and locations of those facilities that will be equipped to electronically fingerprint professional guardians. We are working to make sure that every part of the state will have access to a facility. We anticipate finalization in late fall 2007.

Registration

Part of our rule change includes updating the professional guardian registration form. Two concerns we heard from professional guardians involved (1) submitting professional guardian employee information and (2) calculating the professional guardian continuing education reporting period. Now there will be a separate form for professional guardian employees to submit their information, and the professional guardian forms will include a chart of continuing education reporting periods. Professional guardians should find the revisions more user friendly. Another change related to registration includes the addition of expedited processing fees.

In accordance with Florida Statutes, we must respond to a registration form within 30 days. Many times we get calls from frantic professional guardians that, for

whatever reason, they missed their due date and need their registration reviewed much sooner. Professional guardians will have the option of requesting review within two weeks, seven days, or 48 hours. Again, this expedited review will be optional for those professional guardians who may find themselves requiring expedited review.

A related change is to the standard registration fee. Florida Statutes allow for the Statewide Public Guardianship Office to charge up to \$100 for registration. Currently the registration fee is \$25.00 and has not been raised since the registration program's inception in 2003. Because of increased costs, the fee will be raised to \$35.00. We have looked at fees across the country and find that, even with a \$10.00 increase to \$35.00, we are well below the national average. For example, professional guardians in California

pay \$385 for a three-year certificate.

We have been asked many times about the feasibility of the Statewide Public Guardianship Office sending renewal notices. Our current computer system does not have the capability to automatically generate such a notice and we do not have the staff to issue such notices manually, but we do hope to upgrade to a system that will include this capability. In the meantime, we think that one of the Florida State Guardianship Association's recommendations may assist in providing professional guardians with that timely reminder. We have been asked by association members to include a wallet-size card that includes the professional guardian's name, registration member and registration period along with our standard registration certificate. We will

Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County, Inc.

In 2007, the Public Guardianship Program became involved with an 81-year-old woman who was residing on the sub acute floor of a skilled nursing facility (SNF). In her medical record at the facility, it stated that she had had a seizure in her previous assisted living facility and was sent to the hospital where she was intubated and placed on a mechanical ventilator. She was able to be weaned off the ventilator and extubated; however, because of severe stridor, she was reintubated. She also had a tracheotomy performed because of an airway obstruction and she had a PEG tube for nutrition. When we became involved, she tried to converse with us but was unable. She was left in a room in the end of the sub acute unit with limited support or assistance. She attempted to walk and talk, but instead of having therapies ordered, her physician ordered hospice.

After determining that the facility that she was residing at was not meeting her needs, we transferred her to another SNF. Since being at this SNF, and with the advocacy of the Public Guardianship registered nurse and social workers, this woman is now engaging in therapies and is feeding herself. She takes two meals now by mouth and only one via the PEG tube. She is able to ambulate short distances with assistance and has become more alert, motivated and independent. She is able to converse with staff and make her needs known. This woman has regained quality to her life and has advocates who insure that her voice is heard.

Rena Taylor, Esq., Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County, Inc.

implement this change. We are grateful to the Florida State Guardianship Association for making this suggestion. Not only does it address a need for the professional guardians, but it will also serve as the reminder guardians require. We encourage suggestions like this and hope they will continue to be provided.

Examining Committee Curriculum Training Materials

A portion of 2006 legislation involved developing examining committee member training. Examining committee members serve a vital role in the guardianship process. It is these persons who are responsible for evaluating an alleged incapacitated person's capacity and submitting reports for the courts' consideration. In accordance with House Bill 457 (2006), the Statewide Public Guardianship Office coordinated with the Florida Conference of Circuit Court Judges, the Elder Law Section of The Florida Bar, the Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section of The Florida Bar, the Florida State Guardianship Association, and the Florida Guardianship Foundation to form the Examining Committee Curriculum Workgroup. This workgroup was charged with developing the initial training and continuing education for those persons that serve as examining committee members for incapacity proceedings. Prior to this legislation, there was no requirement that persons serving in this vital role receive any form of training targeted to their work

on the committees.

The Examining Committee Curriculum Workgroup developed four modules to be utilized by each circuit court for the four hours of initial training. The modules cover the adjudicatory process, the role of the examining committee, the legal and clinical assessment models and a local procedures component. The goal of the workgroup was to provide a significant outline of topics within each module to the circuit courts for implementation in each community.

During 2007, workgroup members were able to work, in conjunction with the Office of the State Courts Administrator, to assist the circuit courts with implementation. The Office of the State Courts Administrator has provided the ability to conduct a live training via each circuit court's video conferencing system. In addition, the University of South Florida is exploring the possibility of adding examining committee training to a conference scheduled for December 2007.

Funding

Securing a permanent funding source for public guardianship remains a challenge. The loss of filing fees from the implementation of Article V changes to the Florida Constitution continues to have a significant impact on our programs. Further complicating the issue is the state's current budget crisis.

The Statewide Public Guardianship Office has submitted a legislative budget request for additional monies to assist in three critical-need

areas highlighted in the Department of Elder Affairs report Public Guardianship, An Assessment of Need 2004. The request also contains a provision for additional staff at the Statewide Public Guardianship Office to assist with implementation of a professional guardian mentoring program as well as professional guardian education development.

The Statewide Public Guardianship Office is also hopeful that there will be legislation during the upcoming legislative session that will provide a permanent funding mechanism for public guardianship programs to remain and to expand in Florida. This office has begun an in-depth review of the use of Medicaid dollars to fund public guardianship in other states. The preliminary data includes analysis of statutory references and case law utilized across the United States.

Direct Support Organization: Foundation for Indigent Guardianship, Inc.

The Foundation for Indigent Guardianship, Inc., is the direct support organization for the Statewide Public Guardianship Office. The foundation was created in 2005 in accordance with Florida Statutes. The foundation's sole purpose is to raise monies for public guardianship in Florida. The foundation's first project was establishing the Florida Public Guardianship Pooled Special Needs Trust. The unique benefit to this special needs pooled trust

is that the retained monies will be used to fund public guardianship in Florida. The co-trustee, the Center for Special Needs Trust, will be able to provide the Foundation for Indigent Guardianship, Inc., with the specific county the retained funds originated so that the Statewide Public Guardianship Office can ensure those monies return to that community for public guardianship. Another advantage to the foundation's trust is that Berkshire Trust Advisory serves as Trust Protector of the Florida Public Guardianship Pooled Special Needs Trust. The trust is the only pooled trust in the state of Florida to have the added safeguard of a watchdog over the trust, specifically seeking to maintain public benefits and security for the trust's disabled participants. The first contribution from the trust was presented to the Statewide Public Guardianship Office in August 2007. Anyone who is interested in learning more about this trust is encouraged to contact the Center for Special Needs Trust Administration or visit www.sntcenter.org/Download_Page_FIG.htm.

The Foundation for Indigent

Guardianship Inc., is also hard at work on their next project, developing a Web site as a resource for persons interested in guardianship issues and including the ability for persons to make a charitable donation for public guardianship in Florida. It is the goal of the foundation to have the Web site operational by the end of 2007. The domain name of www.guardianshipfoundation.org has already been secured.

National Guardianship Month

For the fourth consecutive year, Florida has celebrated National Guardianship Month during



October. In recognition of the hard work of Florida's guardians, Governor Crist stated, "I applaud Florida's guardians who step forward every day to safeguard the rights and well-being of our most vulnerable residents, their service ensures that those in need receive the dignity and respect they deserve."

Looking Ahead

For the upcoming legislative session, this office hopes to raise awareness of the potential onslaught of guardianship cases and the importance of educating Floridians about advance directives as an alternative to the guardianship system. There is growing concern in Florida that, with our number of baby boomers and retirees, the demand on the guardianship system will outpace our resources. The court system is already operating at or near capacity; most jurisdictions have few examining committee members available to meet the statutes' strict time line. Additionally, friends and family are reluctant to serve as guardian, and the number of professional guardians in the state has not grown

Fifth Circuit Public Guardian Corporation

The Fifth Circuit Public Guardian Corporation became the guardian to 63-year-old Helen Sue Lewis on June 20, 2006. Helen was referred to us through an Adult Protective Services Investigator who found Helen hiding in the bushes as she fled from her abusive caregiver. Helen has mild mental retardation and dementia. We were able to place Helen into a safe environment through the Association for Retarded Citizens (ARC).

Today, Helen is happy and safe! She recently participated in her first girls' weekend at Daytona Beach, an annual tradition of the ARC. When the event started, Helen was crying; ARC staff went to her and realized they were tears of joy, as it was the first time she got to wear a bathing suit and go into a swimming pool. This is an example that our agency makes a difference in the lives of some of our most vulnerable citizens.

Cathy Ackerman, Esq., Executive Director, Fifth Circuit Public Guardian Corp.

with the demand. Public guardianship growth has been severely hindered because of its loss of a funding source with Article V revisions.

Another contributing factor to the forecasted growth of guardianship is the rise of elder abuse and neglect. As the case of Mr. Larsen mentioned in the beginning of this report highlights, sometimes a guardian is the only person who does step in and becomes the voice for incapacitated persons. It is for all of these reasons that the Statewide Public Guardianship Office will continue to work hard during the 2008 Legislative Session to promote awareness of guardianship and more importantly, its alternatives.

As the number of persons in Florida requiring a guardian increases,

demands on the Statewide Public Guardianship Office will also grow. Floridians will be looking for professional and public guardians alike, and we will need to be prepared to provide consumers with the appropriate information. This means working to increase the number of professional guardian training courses, implementing a mentoring program, and securing funding for public guardians and public guardian program expansion. If the Statewide Public Guardianship Office receives adequate funding, we can look forward to hiring additional staff to assist with the implementation of a mentoring program for future professional guardians. We also hope to complete internal modernization of our computer database of our guardians.

The stories contained in this report keep us motivated. We will contin-

ue to work hard ensuring that Floridians who need the services of a guardian receive those services.

For additional information on the topics covered in this report, please visit our Web site or contact our office.

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Office of the Public Guardian, Inc., Leon County Public Guardian

It is never easy to take the phone call from Adult Protective Services when they refer vulnerable people to our program who have suffered abuse or neglect. CK's case was especially difficult to hear. CK was only 19 years old, an adult, but not yet out of her teens. She had been sexually abused by a family member resulting in an unwanted pregnancy, more the tragedy because CK's IQ is below 70. State authorities took care of her immediate needs by removing her from her family and placing her in a licensed group home.

What CK needed was someone who would be there for her for the long haul. Symenthia, a Master's Level social worker with the Office of Public Guardian, Inc., accepted the challenge of acting as CK's guardian to make her medical decisions, manage her finances, arrange suitable residential placements and maximize the quality of CK's life.

When Symenthia met CK, CK was confined to a wheelchair. To complicate matters further, the pregnancy left CK with a disturbing medical condition that doctors couldn't seem to diagnose.

Symenthia sought consultations with doctors concerning the walking issue and the medical condition. When CK had to have surgery on one foot, Symenthia was there at the hospital. After CK recuperated from that surgery, Symenthia learned that surgery was needed on the other foot. Again, Symenthia was right there. Then, Symenthia began the arduous two-year task of seeing specialist after specialist in an effort to resolve the medical issues surrounding the pregnancy complications. Symenthia, the residential provider, and CK ultimately had to travel to Shands Hospital in Gainesville to get an answer. Symenthia never accepted rote answers and she stayed by CK's side the entire time.

This September, Symenthia celebrated with CK at her high school graduation. CK has graduated at an unfortunate time of program budget cuts for people with disabilities. To make sure CK has everything she needs, Symenthia will have to use her finest advocacy skills. One thing is for certain – CK won't be alone.

Karen Campbell, Esq., Executive Director, Office of the Public Guardian, Inc.

Martin County Public Guardian

Mr. F. is an elderly gentleman who was living alone in a mobile home park. He was pleasant enough, but was not paying the monthly park fee. The manager at the park could not tell if he was genuinely confused or was avoiding them.

One day, while in the park office, he had a heart attack and was taken to the hospital. He was ultimately placed in a rehab facility. Although Mr. F. was in the facility he was incapable of handling his financial affairs. Although she loved her brother, his sister would not assist him because of the accusations of theft. The facility suggested the Public Guardian program, as there were no other relatives that were willing to assist him. Mr. F. was adjudicated incompetent and the Martin County Public Guardian Program was appointed as his guardian.

When the caseworker and I to the park to inventory his property, we discovered that the park repossessed the mobile home and all of the contents. We checked the mobile home for personal papers. It was packed full of craft items and flea market items; Mr. F. was buying and selling things at the flea market. The bathroom was so cluttered, it was unusable. We were told Mr. F. showered at the clubhouse. His van, full of more junk, was being auctioned the next day.

The park manager was very glad to see us there to help Mr. F., although she felt terrible about him and his home. She knew that Mr. F. needed help, but she didn't know where to turn. We explained that Adult Protective Services will help in situations of self-neglect and also that a public guardian will step in to be the court-appointed guardian, if the person is incompetent and has no family able to assist. She asked if Indian River County has a public guardian program, but unfortunately it does not. Had Mr. F. remained in Vero Beach, other arrangements would have to be made.

Now he is in a facility, still has some problems with paranoia that are being addressed, but he plays games and is involved in activities at the facility. His sister takes him to church and out to dinner on Sundays.

Linda Hake, Esq., Director, Martin County Public Guardian

Guardianship Program of Dade County, Inc.

Jorgelina C. is a 78-year-old Hispanic female who resides in a nursing home and has been diagnosed with organic mental disorder, diabetes and hypertension. She was adjudicated incapacitated on June 20, 2005, at which time the Guardianship Program of Dade County, Inc., (GPDC) was appointed as guardian.

During one of GPDC's routine monthly visits, the assigned case manager noticed that Jorgelina was not herself. Jorgelina was trying to verbalize that she was in extreme pain. She stared desperately into the case manager's eyes while pointing to her abdomen and screaming in agony. Immediately the case manager spoke with the nursing staff, which stated that the assigned physician had run tests, which satisfied him that nothing was wrong with the ward. The GPDC case manager spoke with the doctor regarding his diagnosis. He stated he visited the ward and checked her thoroughly and there was nothing physically wrong with her. The case manager disagreed and repeatedly insisted that the ward be sent to the hospital and told the doctor if he did not send her, she would call 911 herself. The doctor relented.

Upon arrival at the hospital, Jorgelina required life-saving surgery to remove the watermelon sized tumor. After the surgery, Jorgelina was stable and appeared to be free from the abdomen clutching pain that she suffered while at the nursing home.

It is without a doubt the case manager's professionalism and tenacity served to not only alleviate Jorgelina's excruciating pain, but also may have been responsible for saving and prolonging her life. Jorgelina will now have the opportunity to continue her loving relationship with her twin sister and live out her elder years in the comfort she is entitled to, under the watchful eye of her guardian.

Jerry Santeiro, Executive Director, Guardianship Program of Dade County, Inc.

**STATE OF FLORIDA LOCAL OFFICES OF PUBLIC GUARDIAN
(Current as of November, 2007)**

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Strategic Goals, Objectives, and Performance Measures

Strategic Goal: To ensure every Floridian receiving the services of a Public Guardian receives quality care and service.

Objective: To timely process and prioritize all referrals based on the immediate needs of the Alleged Incapacitated Person (AIP).

	2004	2005	2006	2007		Strategic Target
Number of total referrals received.	797	795	911	914		_____
Number of those referrals that met the criteria for OPG.	412	371	430	524		_____
Number of eligible referrals placed on a waiting list.	145	186	132	225		_____
Percent of referrals in which activity was initiated by OPG within five (5) days.	100%	100%	98%	98%		98%

Objective: To provide the ward the opportunity to have a qualified family member or friend serve as his or her guardian.

	2004	2005	2006	2007		Strategic Target
Number of cases appointed to OPG during the fiscal year.	379	476	634	566		_____
Number of wards with a qualified family or friend to serve as the guardian.	19	34	27	39		_____
Number of petitions filed to appoint a family member or friend to serve as the guardian.	13	31	23	39		98%
Number of orders granting appointment of family member or friend to serve as successor guardian.	11	16	23	37		_____

STATEWIDE PUBLIC GUARDIANSHIP OFFICE ANNUAL REPORT 2007

Objective: To conduct evaluations to determine if a ward is able to have his or her rights restored.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	Strategic Target
Number of wards evaluated for restoration of rights.	1009	320	458	501	98%
Number of Petitions for Restoration filed.	26	32	29	51	_____
Number of Petitions for Restoration approved by the court.	14	13	18	16	_____

Objective: To strive to increase the frequency of visits to the ward beyond what is mandated in Florida Statutes.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	Strategic Target
Number of wards served during the previous fiscal year.	1683	2134	2486	2342	_____
For the following items, please place ward in only one category. *					_____
Number of wards visited four (4) times per year.	176	199	173	319	_____
Number of wards visited more than four (4) times per year.	138	171	213	248	80%
Number of wards visited one (1) time per month.	1342	1650	1788	1530	_____
Number of wards visited one (1) time per week.	27	39	5	7	_____

* Numbers may not equal annual totals. This is usually attributed to a restoration of rights, death of a ward, or date the public guardian was appointed.

