The Public Administrator and Public Guardian protect vulnerable adults in Ventura County by helping them manage their affairs, or ensuring the fair dissolution of their estates.

The County of Ventura Human Services Agency provides public services that promote self-sufficiency, safety, health and well-being. Our programs and services help ensure the protection of children, the elderly and dependent adults. We also provide a safety net for individuals and families who need assistance with basic necessities, such as food, housing and health care. Additionally, we help people secure employment through education, training, job search skills, and job placement.

For more information about the County of Ventura Public Administrator and Public Guardian, please call (805) 654-3141.

Call 211 Help Starts Here

Referral line for health, human and community services.

County of Ventura California

(805) 654-5000
www.ventura.org

Human Services Agency
Integrity • Compassion • Empowerment

County of Ventura
Toll-Free: (866) 904-9362
www.vchsa.org

HSA-079 3/12

Public Administrator Public Guardian

Programs for Special Populations

Human Services Agency
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County of Ventura

A helping hand

Pursuant to California statutes and under authority of the California Superior Court, the Ventura County Public Administrator and Public Guardian's office provides an array of services to adult residents who can no longer provide for their own care, safety and financial stability, and have no other alternative.

Public Administrator

Decedent Estates

The Public Administrator investigates and administers the estates for deceased Ventura County residents when no one else is willing or able to act on their behalf. The Public Administrator secures property and assets, locates family members, oversees final disposition arrangements, and assists eligible families in making final arrangements.

Services include completion of the Probate process for decedent estates, and distribution of assets to heirs.

The Superior Court may appoint the Public Administrator when:

- No executor or administrator has been appointed
- The estate is being wasted, uncared for, or lost
- The will names the Public Administrator as the estate administrator
- An heir wishes to have the Public Administrator oversee the estate.

Referrals to the Public Administrator are made by hospitals, nursing homes, mortuaries, and the Medical Examiner's office. Fees for services are paid from the Decedent's Estate per the California Probate Code.

Public Administrator

Representative Payee Program for Social Security Benefits

The Representative Payee Program provides bill-paying support to Ventura County Behavioral Health clients who receive Social Security and other public benefits. Services include management of the client's income and expenses, and preparation of periodic accounting reports to the Social Security Administration. This program ensures that client benefits are used for basic needs such as housing, food, medical care, clothing, and personal necessities.

Public Guardian

Conservatorship Services for those who need Protection

The Public Guardian establishes conservatorships to protect vulnerable Ventura County residents, including those with chronic mental illness, dementia, traumatic brain injury, and/or developmental disabilities, who can no longer care for themselves and have no one else to provide the necessary care. Probate and Lanterman-Petris-Short are the two main types of conservatorships.

Probate Conservatorships

Probate Conservatorships are for vulnerable adults, primarily seniors, who lack the capacity to make decisions due to a health condition which is not expected to improve. Appointed by the Superior Court, the Public Guardian may take care of the person, making medical decisions and deciding where the conservatee will live. The Public Guardian may also act as a conservator of the estate, making financial decisions and protecting property.

A Limited Probate Conservatorship cares for individuals with developmental disabilities such as mental retardation, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, or autism. The conservator arranges for the client's care and protection, determines where he or she will live, and makes appropriate arrangements for healthcare, housekeeping, transportation and recreation. Referrals to the Probate Conservatorship program may be made by any interested party. All alternatives to conservatorship must be investigated.

Lanterman-Petris-Short Conservatorships

The 1997 Lanterman-Petris-Short Act (LPS) provides for people who are gravely disabled as a result of a severe mental disorder or chronic alcoholism; incapable of providing for their own food, clothing or shelter, and who do not agree to voluntary treatment. Working in collaboration with Ventura County Behavioral Health, the Public Guardian coordinates a client's individualized treatment program in a licensed facility, manages his or her assets, authorizes medical care when ordered by the Court, and coordinates social services, if needed. LPS conservatorships expire in one year unless the Public Guardian seeks reappointment.

Referrals to the LPS Conservatorship program originate from the psychiatric hospital where a client is receiving treatment. For Ventura County, this means all LPS referrals come from Hillmont Psychiatric Center or Aurora Vista del Mar Hospital. All alternatives to conservatorship must be investigated.

The Public Guardian

- Locates and takes control of the conservatee's assets
- Collects income due to the conservatee
- Creates a budget to show what the conservatee can afford
- Pays the conservatee's bills
- Invests the conservatee's money
- Protects the conservatee's assets.

Services for all conservatee's include collaboration and consultation on the appropriate placement in licensed residential facilities, access for mental health and medical treatment, protection of property, financial management and advocacy.

Fees for services are charged monthly to the client per Probate Code guidelines and Court approval.

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