

## **Examining Committee Members for Guardianship Proceedings**

The 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, which encompasses St. Lucie, Okeechobee, Martin and Indian River counties, is seeking to recruit licensed physicians, psychologists, mental health counselors, social workers and laypersons with expertise in gerontology to participate as members of examining committees which are required by Florida Statutes in guardianship proceedings. When a petition to determine a person's incapacity is filed, the court within 5 days, must appoint a committee of three members which includes a licensed physician as well as two other persons (such as a psychologist, social worker or nurse who by knowledge, skill, training or education can report to the court regarding whether the person is incapacitated). Reports of examining committees are due to the courts within 15 days of appointment.

The reimbursement rate for a court appointed physician is a flat fee of \$325. However, if the appointed physician is required to testify in court, the physician can be reimbursed at a rate of \$150 an hour. Fees for psychologists are \$225 and the fee for nurses, other clinicians and laypersons is \$125. An examining committee member participating on a committee outside of his/her home county will be eligible to receive compensation of \$70 per hour for travel time.

All individuals who serve as examining committee members must complete a 4- hour initial training course developed under the supervision of the Statewide Public Guardianship Office, completion of an approved 2 hour continuing education course every two years and maintain licensure in his/her profession. The 4-hour training is available by reviewing a videocassette/DVD. The cost of the cassette/DVD is \$250.

Interested parties should contact Merylee Castellanos, Chief Deputy Court Administrator, at 772-807-4382 or by e-mail at [Castellanosm@circuit19.org](mailto:Castellanosm@circuit19.org)