



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**PUBLIC COMMENT SOUGHT ON GUARDIANSHIP STUDY
COMMISSION'S INITIAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

SANTA FE—The New Mexico Adult Guardianship Study Commission is accepting comments from the public about its initial recommendations for improving the guardianship system.

The commission will consider the comments in preparing a final report that will be submitted to the state Supreme Court.

Comments can be submitted through Wednesday, Nov. 8 at the commission's website <https://cms.nmcourts.gov/Supreme-Court/new-comments.aspx> or in writing by mail, email or fax to:

Joey D. Moya, Clerk
New Mexico Supreme Court
P.O. Box 848
Santa Fe, NM 87504-0848
nmsupremecourtclerk@nmcourts.gov
505-827-4837 (fax)

The commission has submitted its initial status report to the Supreme Court. The report, which includes recommendations and issues for further study, can be viewed at:

https://supremecourt.nmcourts.gov/uploads/files/AGSC%20Initial%20Status%20Report_FINAL.pdf

Among the commission's initial recommendations:

- Require by statute or court rule the certification of professional guardians and conservators by a national organization, such as the Center for Guardianship Certification. This recommendation is not intended to preclude New Mexico from developing its own certification requirements.
- Require bonding or an alternative asset-protection arrangement by statute or court rule for conservators to protect the interests of the individual subject to the conservatorship.
- Propose legislation to establish and fund an adult protected person oversight board to regulate certified, bonded, professional guardians and conservators and to communicate concerns about professional guardians and conservators to the courts.

Court-appointed guardians make personal and health care decisions for individuals who are incapacitated. Conservators are appointed by a court to manage the financial and possibly the property affairs of an incapacitated person, including those who may have dementia, traumatic brain injuries, a developmental disability or mental illness.

The 16-member commission was established by the state Supreme Court earlier this year to recommend changes in court rules, state statutes, funding, administrative practices or other proposals to improve the guardianship system.

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