

# 5 KEY STEPS IN THE LPS CONSERVATORSHIP PROCESS

## WHAT IS AN LPS CONSERVATORSHIP?

FOR A PERSON WHO AS A RESULT OF A MENTAL DISORDER IS GRAVELY DISABLED AND UNABLE TO PROVIDE FOR THEIR BASIC PERSONAL NEEDS SUCH AS: FOOD, CLOTHING, OR SHELTER. THESE MATTERS ARE HEARD BY THE MENTAL HEALTH COURT. CASES ARE INITIATED AFTER AN INVESTIGATION OF THE PUBLIC GUARDIAN.

### PSYCHIATRIC EVALUATION

#### 1. OBTAIN AN ASSESSMENT BY A PSYCHIATRIST AUTHORIZED TO CONDUCT LPS EVALUATIONS

When someone with a mental illness is hospitalized, incarcerated or placed on a 5150 hold, a psychiatrist will provide an assessment. If found to be gravely disabled, the psychiatrist will refer the person to the Office of the Public Guardian for a conservatorship.

### PUBLIC GUARDIAN

#### 2. THE PUBLIC GUARDIAN WILL INVESTIGATE CONSERVATORSHIP REFERRALS

The public guardian investigates LPS conservatorship referrals and makes recommendations to the court.

### OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL

#### 3. THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL WILL REPRESENT THE PUBLIC GUARDIAN AND FILE A PETITION FOR CONSERVATORSHIP WITH THE COURT

Once the petition is filed, a hearing date and time will be assigned. Once you receive the Notice of Hearing, call either the Public Guardian or County Counsel and inform them of your desire to act as the LPS conservator for your loved one.

### IN COURT

#### 4. THE JUDGE WILL DECIDE WHETHER THE PROPOSED CONSERVATEE WILL BE CONSERVED

All interested parties should attend the court hearing. The proposed conservatee will be present and represented by an attorney, usually the Public Defender.

### GRANTED LPS CONSERVATORSHIP

#### 5. IF THE COURT DECIDES TO ESTABLISH AN LPS CONSERVATORSHIP, A CONSERVATOR WILL BE APPOINTED

If the court appoints you as the conservator, be sure to obtain the signed Order and Letters of Conservatorship from the County Counsel. Any time you need to prove you are the conservator, you will show your Letters of Conservatorship. LPS conservatorships last for one year and must be renewed if the conservatee continues to need support.

# 5 KEY CONTACTS FOR AN LPS CONSERVATORSHIP

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## ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES

ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES IS A SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAM SERVING OLDER ADULTS AND ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES WHO NEED ASSISTANCE.

Day Phone: **(888) 202-4248**

Evening Phone: **(877) 477-3646**

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## NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF MENTAL ILLNESS (NAMI)

THE NAMI HELPLINE IS A FREE, NATIONWIDE PEER-SUPPORT SERVICE PROVIDING INFORMATION, RESOURCE REFERRALS, AND GUIDANCE TO PEOPLE LIVING WITH A MENTAL HEALTH CONDITION.

Phone: **(800) 950-6264**

Email: **info@nami.org**

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## THE PUBLIC GUARDIAN

THIS AGENCY INVESTIGATES LPS CONSERVATORSHIP REFERRALS, MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COURT, AND IS THE CONSERVATOR WHEN FAMILY IS UNAVAILABLE.

Day Phone: **(213) 974-0407**

Evening Phone: **(213) 974-1234**

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## OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL

ATTORNEYS FROM COUNTY COUNSEL REPRESENT THE PUBLIC GUARDIAN IN LPS AND PROBATE CONSERVATORSHIP MATTERS.

Phone: **(213) 974-1811**

Email: **Contact\_Us@counsel.lacounty.gov**

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## THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

THE PUBLIC DEFENDER REPRESENTS THE PERSON TO BE CONSERVED (CONSERVATEE).

Phone: **(213) 974-2811**

Toll-Free Phone: **(833) 700-2812**

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT:

**[HTTPS://WWW.BETTZEDEK.ORG/OUR-SERVICES/RESOURCES/](https://www.bettzedek.org/our-services/resources/)**