

HUNT COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 2

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JOEL D. LITTLEFIELD JUDGE, COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 2 2nd FLOOR COUNTY COURTHOUSE AMENDA HENDERSON COURT COORDINATOR (903) 408-4234 • FAX (903) 408-4239

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COURT INITIATED GUARDIANSHIP PROCESS

If you have cause to believe that: (1) a person domiciled or found in Hunt County, (2) is an incapacitated person, **AND** (3) the person does not have a guardian in this state, you may request the Court to investigate the circumstances to determine whether the person is incapacitated and if a guardianship is necessary.

To request an investigation by the Court:

- 1. Complete the *Suggestion of Need for Guardian Application* (hereinafter Application) that is located on the Court's website.
- 2. <u>If</u> you have a *Physicians Certificate of Medical Examination* or a *Determination of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities* (DIDD) that: (1) has been completed and signed by a physician licensed to practice medicine in Texas, (2) is dated within 3 months of the application and based upon an examination conducted within 3 months of the Application, attach it to the Application.
- 3. Submit the application (and if applicable the attachments thereto) to the Hunt County Clerk's Office. *DO NOT SUBMIT THE APPLICATION DIRECTLY TO THE COURTS*.

The Hunt County Clerk's Office will assign the application to a Court.

After it is assigned to a Court, the Court will review the application to determine if probable cause exists to determine the person is: (1) domiciled or found in the county, (2) is an incapacitated person, and (3) does not have a guardian in this state.

If the Court finds probable cause, an Attorney Ad Litem or Guardian Ad Litem will be appointed and an investigation will take place to determine if a guardianship is needed or another, lesser restrictive, alternative is appropriate.

If guardianship is recommended, a determination will be made if the proposed ward has any family members or friends that can serve as their legal guardians.

IF YOU SUSPECT THAT AN ADULT IS BEING ABUSED, NEGLECTED OR EXPLOITED, IMMEDIATELY CONTACT ADULT PROTECT SERVICES AT 1-800-252-5400.