

Costs of not attending to individuals needing Guardianship

- Law Enforcement – Fields a great many calls for problem resolution, Investigation, seeking out Social Services intervention for individuals who do not have capacity to take care of their own needs.
- ER visits and Medical Care – Individuals who are unable to meet their own needs and make decisions in their own best interest have increase ER visits, do not practice preventative medical care and have a higher incident of more serious medical incident requiring more expensive and invasive medical procedures. Increase cost to Medicaid and Medicare programs.
- APS – Investigates a high percentage of Self-Neglect cases. Many of these cases take hours and hours of regular case work to help an individual resolve problems, arrange necessary services, intervention activities, arrange housing, medical care, ensure that basic necessities are obtained and maintained. Often when they look for resources for individuals that could benefit from the appointment of a Guardian or Fiduciary, there is no one available. Without on-going assistance, many of these individuals are referred over and over. Individuals that are living with incapacity without adequate assistance are at an increased risk of financial exploitation or other forms of abuse and other victimization of other serious crime.
- Social Service Agencies – spend a great deal of time assisting folks that are unable to meet their primary needs and could benefit from someone to look after their affairs. Some of these individuals are having difficulty as a result of lifestyle issues or financial problems, but there are those that are living with incapacity.
- Financial – Individuals that are incapacitated and are living without necessary care and assistance to meet their primary needs are often living in poverty or low income. They frequently have little or no ability to handle their financial affairs and are at significant risk of eviction, exploitation, malnutrition and homelessness.
- Mental Health Issues – Many individuals have mental health problems and are incapacitated as a result. Many of these folks are not compliant with care and treatment and are removed from the very systems that are designed to assist them. These individuals frequently become homeless or incarcerated for behaviors that result from their issues.
- Institutional Care – Without adequate services in place to meet the needs of individuals, they have a higher rate of institutional care.

As a state, we are likely paying more for not attending to issues that we could address through a state-wide Public Guardianship Program.