



An affiliate of the National Guardianship Association

Information and resources for individuals, family members, and professionals about Guardianship and Conservatorship.



Welcome to the Massachusetts Guardianship Association

**The Guardian**

**January 2015**

**Note from the MGA President....**

*Happy New Year! 2015 brings some very exciting projects for the Massachusetts Guardianship Association. I am pleased to roll out the new format for our newsletter "The Guardian" which will now be delivered electronically six times per year via Constant Contact, in hopes of keeping our membership informed and involved. I am very excited for the opportunity to serve this wonderful organization as its President this year.*  
Sarah W. Peterson, Esq.



**Your Support Matters.**  
**Become a 2015 Member Today!**

January kicks-off our 2015 Membership Drive. Your dues go directly to providing vital information to individuals and families across the Commonwealth, and offering Members

one-of-a-kind events and networking opportunities. Member benefits include: 6 Issues of 'The Guardian' Newsletter, your name in the MGA Directory, use of the MGA Logo on your website, and discounts to upcoming events.

Becoming a member has never been easier! [Simply Click Here](#) to register and pay online. Thank you!

### **Guardianship Conference Series: Member Discount**

The MGA is hosting an exciting Guardianship Conference Series in collaboration with the Social Law Library. This four-part series will explore complexities, challenges and unanswered questions in the areas of Substituted Judgment/Rogers Cases; Financial Issues; End of Life Care & Life Sustaining Treatment; and Ethical Issues. I can share that we will have panelists who include the foremost judges and practitioners in the Commonwealth. We will also be offering discounted admission prices to MGA members. Stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks!



### **New Guardianship Legislation and Proceedings**

With a new year, we always have new legislation and procedures to keep on top of. Here are a few of the changes which are important to you - our members.

**NEW PROCEDURES:** In the area of Guardianship and Conservatorship Proceedings, the Probate and Family Court has announced "Procedures for Actions Filed Under the Uniform Adult Guardianship and Protective Proceedings Jurisdiction Act (UAGPPJA) in Massachusetts, effective January 1, 2015. (Chapter 225 of the Acts of 2014, G.L. c. 190B §5A.) It specifies what actions can be brought under the UAGPPA. More information can be found on the [Massachusetts Court System](#) website.

**NEW FORMS:** New petition forms for both guardianship and conservatorship have also been released and have been updated on the courts' website as well. [Click here](#) to view the new forms.

### **New State Regulations effecting adults with Serious Advancing Illness**

On December 19, 2014 new statewide regulations went into effect which require all licensed hospitals, clinics, and long-term care facilities to distribute information regarding advanced care planning, palliative care, hospice care, and end of life care options to adults with serious advancing illness, or their Health Care Agent and Guardians. To read more on this new law and download free resources, go to [Honoring Choices Massachusetts](#).

NEW BROCHURE: The Department of Public Health has published a new informational brochure called, "*Know Your Choices: A Guide for Patients with Serious Advancing Illness*" [Click here](#) to view the new brochure.

### **Federation for Children with Special Needs Conference**

We are thrilled to be participating in the Federation for Children with Special Needs 2015 Annual Conference "Visions of Community 2015" on Saturday, March 7, 2015 at the Seaport World Trade Center in Boston. Board Members Sarah Boonin, Esq., Kathy Ryan, Eden Prendergast, Esq., Charlie Lynch, and Sarah Peterson, Esq., will be presenting a workshop on "Questionable Decision-Making Ability: Exploring Guardianship and Other Options Available" (workshop #11) from 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. The conference offers 47 workshops in 6 different languages. Please save the date! [Click here](#) to register online for this event.

### **2014 Networking Annual Meeting- a Great Success!**

Our 2014 Annual Meeting and Networking Event held at the Dedham Hilton on December 2, 2014 was a great success! Entitled, "*An Open Dialogue: Working Together to Assist Individuals with Developmental & Intellectual Disabilities*" the panel, consisting of board members Joanne Erickson, Esq., Gary Zalkin, Esq., and Patricia Freedman, J.D., and moderated by board member Sarah Boonin, Esq., provided a thoughtful and insightful discussion surrounding DDS eligibility requirements and key legislative issues, guardianship options, and the role of a special needs trust in future planning. We had a wonderful turnout and great participation and questions from attendees.

Thanks everyone!

I very much look forward to serving as President of the MGA and I hope to meet you at one of our upcoming events. On behalf of the MGA Board of Directors, thank you for your continued support. Please JOIN US and [BECOME A MEMBER TODAY](#).

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