

## COLUMBIA COUNTY PROBATE COURT

To: Members of the Bar

From: Alice W. Padgett

Date: January 9, 2012

RE: New Procedures for Adult Guardianships and/or Conservatorships Cases

Beginning January 1, 2012, there are some new procedures concerning Guardianships and Conservatorships of Adults. There is a Standing Order that will apply to each case. A copy of the Standing Order is on the Court's website.

The proposed guardian and/or conservator needs to view the Adult Guardianship video prepared by the Georgia Council of Probate Judges. The video can be accessed through the [www.gaprobate.org](http://www.gaprobate.org) website.

Within ten (10) day of the date of the Standing Order, the proposed guardian and/or conservator will be required to submit to a criminal records check. The consent form is available on the Court's website and available at the Probate Court office.

Each person nominated as conservator shall file with the Court, no later than six (6) days prior to the hearing, a completed "Qualifications Questionnaire for Nominated Conservators." Said Questionnaire is available on the Court's website. A copy of each completed Questionnaire shall be provided to counsel for the proposed ward, the guardian-ad-litem, if any and counsel for any intervenors no later than four (4) days prior to the hearing.

Additionally, it is the duty of the attorney of the petitioner and the petitioner to be familiar with the reporting requirements of guardians and conservators. Please review the [Handbook for Guardians and Conservators of Adults in Georgia](#). Copies of this Handbook are available at the Court or online at [www.gaprobate.org](http://www.gaprobate.org).

The Standing Order also addresses the bonding requirements in these cases.

If you have any questions about any of this, please feel free to call me at 706-312-7254.