

KEEPING UP *with* TALLAHASSEE

“Keeping up” with this year’s Florida Legislature has taken some doing! In brief, the regular 60-Day Session began timely on January 13th and did conclude in March albeit without a state budget as is required. There’s been two Special Sessions since, and a third about to commence in June.

Nonetheless, there are some issues already settled such as the Department of Elder Affairs’ 33-page proposal addressing various items including a few within Chapter 744 and guardianship. The new provisions include the following:

- The executive director of OPPG will no longer be required in statute to be an attorney, non-attorneys can be appointed.
- For the specified 12-hours of continuing education of the total 30-hours, 1-hour must now address Alzheimer’s disease and related disorders, consequently the 4-hours in guardianship law is decreased to 3-hours instead.
- Regarding disciplinary proceedings, the Department will now be able to impose a fine of up to \$500 per violation if substantiated, and also will be able to issue subpoenas for records held by certain providers of services as well as from guardians if needed.

Additionally, with the new state budget finally passed by the Legislature, there is good news for the Public Guardian Offices throughout Florida with an increase in funding of \$4,373,465, up from the current almost \$16 million. Always good for increasing needed funding.

More updates will follow soon along with particularly important updates regarding the rewrite of the Department’s Administrative Rule (Chapter 58M-2). Concerning the revisions to the Rule, here too FSGA has been actively involved for some time helping to make improvements beneficial to everyone. Essentially, the resulting rewrite promises to be good news for everybody. **Stay tuned as these updates will be provided at the July Conference!**

FSGA has indeed been directly engaged on behalf of everyone discussing these and numerous other issues with Elder Affairs during many in-person meetings in Tallahassee. As a result, these new changes noted are far more reasonable than the earlier versions proposed a couple of years back.



Join Our Exhibitors— Don't Be Left Out

As we prepare for the 39th Annual FSGA Conference, we're excited to welcome more than 500 professional guardians, attorneys, and decision-makers from across Florida. Many organizations have already secured their spot to connect with this influential audience.

Exhibiting at the FSGA Conference is an opportunity to build relationships with trusted referral sources and showcase your services to professionals making daily decisions about care and providers.

We're proud to feature the organizations already committed to this year's event (see logos below). Join them—space is limited, and exhibitor opportunities are filling quickly.



GUARDIAN.COURSELAUNCH.IO



FIFTH THIRD



The Florida State Guardianship Association's Annual Conference

The Florida State Guardianship Association's Annual Conference continues to build momentum as Florida's premier educational event focused on guardianship, ethics, and advocacy—bringing together hundreds of professionals both in person and virtually. Designed for guardians, attorneys, fiduciaries, care managers, social workers, court personnel, judges, paralegals, nurses, ALF/SNF administrators, and allied professionals, this dynamic three-day conference offers practical, real-world education alongside valuable opportunities for collaboration and connection. Attendees will also have the opportunity to earn CLE and CEU credits while engaging with timely, relevant topics that directly impact their daily work. Be sure to review the enclosed conference flyer for a full schedule and a look at our outstanding keynote speakers—we look forward to having you join us.

CONTINUING EDUCATION APPROVED

- 14 hours (with pre-intensive) or 11 (virtual) Guardianship CEUs
Professional Ethics- 4, Advanced Directives- 1, Guardianship Law-4, General CE- 9, Fiduciary Responsibilities- 3, Guardianship CEUs
- 13.0 hours Elder Law and Wills Trusts and Estates: General 13.0 Ethics 6.0 Technology 1.0 Continuing Legal Education
- 14 general hours for Clinical Social Workers, Marriage & Family Therapists, and Mental Health Counselors
- 14 hours approved by the Center for Guardianship Certification

PATHWAYS
TO PROFESSIONALISM
FSGA 39th Annual Conference

Rosen Plaza Orlando Florida

JULY
29-31
2026



PATHWAYS TO PROFESSIONALISM

Join us for an exceptional two-day conference dedicated to guardianship and advocacy, featuring a dynamic program led by renowned experts. Highlights include a three-hour certification session with Dr. Joshua Frietas, offering NIDE dementia advocate credentials, along with insights from physicians, Inspectors General, and probate judges. Kick off with our immersive pre-conference ethics intensive—an interactive, case-based workshop exploring real-world guardianship dilemmas.



Joshua J. Freitas, PhD
Vice President of Program Development at CERTUS Senior Living, Chief Research Officer of the CERTUS Institute, and Chief Educational Officer & Board Chair at the National Institute for Dementia Education (NIDE)



Kenneth Goodman, PhD, FACMI, FACE
Founder and Director of the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine's Institute for Bioethics and Health Policy.



Taroub J. Faraj
Inspector General for the Florida Department of Elder Affairs, Supervision of the department's Guardianship Investigations Unit and Reserve Deputy Marshal for the Florida Supreme Court.



Ray E. Moseley, PhD, Associate Professor
Bioethics, Law and Medical Professionalism, Director of UF Shands Hospital Clinical Ethics Consultation Service and Chair of UF Shands Ethics Committee.



Don Pearson
Guardianship Investigation Manager, Office of Inspector General Florida Department of Elder Affairs



The Honorable Tesha Scolaro Ballou
Circuit Judge, Probate and Guardianship Division, Titusville, Florida. Previously, General Magistrate, Dependency and Guardianship Received a Judicial Distinguished Service Award for Florida.



Shadi Gholizadeh, PhD, MPH, MSc, CMC
Licensed psychologist, clinical Chief Quality and Innovation Officer at The Key.



Joseph Thornton, PhD
Clinical Associate Professor of Psychiatry at UF Health. He is the Founding Director for the UF-VA UNESCO Bioethics Unit and works clinically in the General Adult Division both inpatient and outpatient services.

*Additional speakers and session details available on the event website

WhoVa

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VIRTUAL OPTION AVAILABLE

Participate in the conference just like an in-person attendee through the state-of-the-art WHOVA app!

SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE

Gain attention of our attendees, while showcasing your commitment to guardians and exploring new horizons.

[REGISTER TODAY](#)



Our room block at the Rosen Plaza is FULL. We have secured a block of rooms directly across the street at the Rosen Pointe Inn at a reduced rate.

[SECURE HERE](#)

The Florida State Guardianship Association and Foundation for Indigent Guardianship are proud to present the 3rd Annual 2026 Leaders in Excellence Awards honoring Florida's exceptional public guardians at the upcoming Annual Conference in Orlando.

This special event recognizes the professionals whose dedication, leadership, advocacy, and compassion make a meaningful impact on the lives of those they serve. The awards celebrate excellence in public guardianship and the individuals helping shape the future of guardianship across Florida.



Awards Reception will be held on Wednesday, July 29, from 5:45 PM to 7:30 PM. Attendees will enjoy an evening of celebration, connection, refreshments, and fellowship as we honor outstanding leaders.

All conference attendees are welcome to attend. Simply RSVP when registering for the FSGA Annual Conference



CATCHING UP WITH OUR CHAPTERS....



Members of the Tri-County Florida Chapter welcomed Polk County Clerk Stacy Butterfield, CPA, for a meet-and-greet with local guardians in Polk County. Building relationships like these helps community leaders better understand who guardians are and the important work they do.



Pam Wiener, FSGA President Elect presented at Palomino Gardens Retirement Community during the Palm Beach Guardianship Association meeting, sharing updates on the ongoing work and initiatives of the FSGA.



The LaMar Beach Chapter took time to recharge with a team-building evening that included dinner and a comedy club outing, bringing members together for connection, camaraderie, and plenty of laughs.

WANTED - GUARDIAN MENTORS, ALSO ATTORNEYS NEEDED

Help Shape the Future of Guardianship!

The Florida Guardianship Foundation is seeking experienced, dedicated professional guardians to serve as mentors, as well as attorneys to assist, in our ground-breaking Mentoring Program. This exciting initiative is designed to support newly appointed guardians as they navigate the early stages of practice while promoting professionalism, ethics, and excellence throughout the guardianship community. *And, we are honored to have the support of state officials in Tallahassee!*

As a mentor, you will have the opportunity to make a meaningful impact on the next generation of guardians by sharing your knowledge, experience, and practical guidance. Because this is an innovative program, your feedback and insight will also play an important role in helping shape and strengthen the program for the future.



Mentor Responsibilities

- Commit approximately 1-2 hours per week for up to six months, to provide guidance and support during the critical early stages;
- Assist with securing that first court-appointment;
- Complete brief documentation regarding mentoring activities and guidance provided;
- Help foster ethical practices and high professional standards within guardianship.

Mentors will be compensated for their time, effort, and valuable contributions to the program.

If you are interested in serving as a mentor, or assisting as an attorney, or would like additional information, please see the Florida Guardianship Foundation at: www.flgdfoundation.com/mentoring-program/

What Makes a Great Mentor?

We are looking for guardians who are:

- Experienced professionals in good standing with OPPG;
- Passionate about teaching, mentoring, and supporting new guardians;
- Committed to advancing professionalism and ethical standards in guardianship.

WHAT MONTHLY BROKERAGE STATEMENTS REVEAL ABOUT FIDUCIARY RISK



A single brokerage statement can reveal far more than account balances—if you know what to look for. **Jeremy Lau, CFA®**, **CFP®** | CEO, **Prudent Investors**

Overview

For professional fiduciaries, oversight doesn't stop at account balances and performance. Monthly brokerage statements contain granular data that can reveal inconsistencies, inefficiencies, or even compliance concerns.

While individual line items may appear insignificant, patterns over time—or small discrepancies left unaddressed—can compound into material fiduciary risk. A disciplined review process allows fiduciaries to move beyond surface-level observations and uncover what lies beneath.

Decoding the Brokerage Statement

A brokerage statement provides a consolidated snapshot of an investment account over a specific period of time. It summarizes changes in value, cash flows, income, and expenses. It also provides portfolio holdings, asset allocation, and transaction history, offering insight into how the account is structured and evolved over time.

General Account Data



- Beginning and ending values
- Contributions and withdrawals
- Income and expenses
- Net change in investment value

Activity



- Purchases and sales
- Dividend and interest
- Deposits and distributions

Holdings



- Types of securities
- Position values
- Cost basis

Portfolio Structure



- Asset allocation
- Cash balances

What's Not Obvious?



Some of the most important fiduciary insights are not explicitly stated in brokerage statements, but can be derived with closer analysis:

- **Investment performance** is often not clearly presented
- **Total portfolio costs** (including fund expenses) may be obscured
- **True asset allocation** may differ from how holdings are labeled
- **Risk exposure** is rarely defined in practical terms

Understanding these gaps is essential to fulfilling oversight responsibilities.

A Smarter Review Process

Given the level of detail included in the brokerage statement, consistency is key. Incorporating a repeatable review framework improves consistency and defensibility:

Monthly	Quarterly	Annually
Identify anomalies - unexpected fees, unusual transactions, shifts in cash	Assess allocation, diversification, and emerging trends	Conduct a full fiduciary review aligned with client objectives, benchmark performance, and overall strategy

For fiduciaries and guardians, investment oversight requires more than periodic review. It demands a structured, repeatable process grounded in transparency, risk awareness, and alignment with each client's unique circumstance. Prudent Investors works alongside guardians to help translate complex portfolio data into clear, actionable insights.

Helping guardians turn insight into action. Please visit our website at www.PrudentInvestors.com to learn more.



Contact Information:

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Investment advice through Prudent Investors Network, Inc., an SEC-registered investment advisor.