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| HCA Rectangle        **Office of the Public Guardian** | **Clayton Chau, MD PhD**  DIRECTOR  **Jenny Qian, M.A.**  PUBLIC GUARDIAN  **MAILING ADDRESS:**  **1300 S. .GRAND AVE**  **BLDG # C, SUITE 213**  **SANTA ANA, CA 92705**  **P O BOX 11526**  **SANTA ANA, CA 92711**  **TELEPHONE: (714) 567-7660**  **LPS FAX: (714) 567-7633**  **PROBATE FAX: (714) 834-7182** |

The Public Guardian is responsible for the care of individuals who are no longer able to make decisions or care for themselves.

A conservatorship is a legal process where a third party (conservator) is given the legal authority to manage the financial affairs and/or the care of another individual (conservatee).

The Superior Court determines whether a person is unable to care and make decisions for themselves and whether a conservatorship is appropriate. Once appointed by the court, the Public Guardian assumes personal and/or financial responsibilities for care of the conservatee.

The Office of the Public Guardian provides assistance in English, Spanish and Vietnamese. Hours of operation are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

**Probate Program**

A probate conservatorship of the person and/or estate may be established for individuals who can no longer care for themselves. Often, the inability to care for self comes from the symptoms of dementia, a traumatic brain injury or other cognitive impairments.

The Probate unit responds to referrals from Adult Protective Services (APS), local law enforcement agencies, financial institutions, the community, and the Superior Court to investigate information received on individuals who are unable to provide for their own basic needs of physical health, food, clothing and shelter and who are at risk of either self-neglect, undue influence by others, or whose property is subject to loss, theft, waste or misappropriation.

Upon acceptance of a referral, an investigation will be completed to ascertain whether a conservatorship is appropriate.

The Public Guardian is deemed as the “conservator of last resort,” meaning that all other viable alternatives need to be considered before the Public Guardian is granted the conservatorship of an individual.

**Deputy Kim Swanson, 714-567-7616**