



# National Association for Court Management

Resolution # \_\_\_\_\_4\_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_2016\_\_\_\_\_

## - In Support of Point of Contact Positions in State Administrative Offices of the Courts to Improve Guardianship/Conservatorship Practices -

WHEREAS, the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) estimated that there were approximately 1.5 million guardianship cases in the United States, and it is expected that this figure will grow based on the size of the aging population; and

WHEREAS, the National Association for Court Management (NACM) has emphasized through the *Adult Guardianship Guide* the need to plan, develop and sustain a comprehensive Court Guardianship and Conservatorship program; and

WHEREAS, the Adult Guardianship Initiative of the NCSC's Center for Elders and the Courts and the CCJ/COSCA Joint Committee on Elders and the Courts aim to improve state court responses to guardianship and conservatorship matters; and

WHEREAS, the Government Accountability Office and national media stories have drawn attention to the challenges courts face in adequately monitoring guardianships and conservatorships; and

WHEREAS, there is a growing nationwide demand for alternatives to guardianship/conservatorship that encourage supported decision making; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Health and Human Services will be supporting a cooperative agreement under its Elder Justice Innovation Grants to establish, expand or enhance multidisciplinary efforts to improve a state's guardianship/conservatorship system through Working Interdisciplinary Networks of Guardianship Stakeholders (WINGS) and similar entities; and

WHEREAS, the United States Administration for Community Living held the first federal conversation on guardianship/conservatorship—Exploring Efforts and Options to Improve Guardianship and Address Abuses—on May 4, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the state court administrative offices have designated Points of Contact to address key issue areas, such as child dependency and violence against women; and

WHEREAS, state court Points of Contact can serve vital roles in connecting the courts to resources and multidisciplinary collaborations to improve guardianship/conservatorship practices, including;

- Improving the collection and reporting of data on guardianships and conservatorships; and
- Identifying funding opportunities to develop and support court initiatives; and
- Leading and participating in multidisciplinary efforts, such as WINGS, to review, evaluate and reform practices; and
- Enhancing outreach and collaborative partnerships to maximize resources and strengthen public trust and confidence in the courts; and

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- Learning about innovative practices and experiences from colleagues in other states and territories; and
- Introducing technologies to the courts that will enhance monitoring and oversight; and
- Developing and implementing training programs for judicial officers, court staff and/or guardians and conservators on national standards and best practices; and
- Recognizing emergent issues, trends and innovative programs that will shape the courts' efforts to improve guardianship/conservatorship practices;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Association for Court Management encourages the state administrative offices of the courts to designate a Point of Contact position to improve guardianship/conservatorship practices

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**\_\_\_\_\_12/6/16\_\_\_\_\_**