

Guidelines for Emergency Appointment of Guardians ad Litem for Incapacitated Adults

In most cases, three days is a sufficient turn-around time from the filing of a guardianship petition until the GAL order is available for pick-up. In a limited number of cases, it may be essential for a GAL to be appointed immediately and the attorney may seek signing of a GAL order at Calendar Control.

In rare cases, it may be appropriate to sign an adult GAL order at Calendar Control under the following circumstances:

1. The petitioning attorney reasonably believes that the Respondent's life or health is threatened

For example,

- The Respondent has left, or may leave or be removed from a care facility or their home
- The Respondent's living conditions are dangerous
- Consent for a medical procedure or surgery is needed (being in a hospital is not necessarily an emergency situation)

2. The petitioning attorney reasonably believes the Respondent is being financially exploited

For example,

- repeated payments for the same services,
- participation in telemarketing sweepstakes and ventures,
- inappropriate transactions with family members

Please do not bring matters not exigent to Calendar Control.