

## TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

Some terms and definitions used on this Website may be unfamiliar to you. The following terms and phrases are often used; knowing them will help you understand the information on this Website.

PETITION:	The form filed with the Probate Court that tells the court what the petitioner is requesting
PETITIONER:	The person who signs the petition and brings the matter to the attention of the court.
RESPONDENT:	The subject of the petition.
CONSERVATOR:	Someone appointed by the court to manage another person's financial affairs.
WARD:	The person who is under the jurisdiction and authority of the probate court.
GUARDIAN:	The person the Judge appoints to be responsible for a protected individual.
GUARDIAN AD LITEM:	A person appointed by the Judge to investigate and represent the best interests of the respondent.
INCAPACITATED INDIVIDUAL:	An adult who is impaired by reason of mental illness, mental deficiency, physical illness or disability, chronic use of drugs, chronic intoxication or other cause, to the extent that they lack sufficient understanding or capacity to make/communicate informed decisions concerning his/her person
PROTECTIVE ORDER:	An order that allows a single purpose or transaction. May be used instead of a conservatorship or with a hearing pending for conservatorship.