

JUN 24 2025

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SISKIYOU

BY: 

DEPUTY CLERK

STANDING ORDER APPOINTING PUBLIC DEFENDER
PROBATE CODE §1471

Pursuant to Probate Code §1471(b): "In a proceeding to establish a limited conservatorship, if the proposed limited conservatee has not retained legal counsel and does not plan to retain legal counsel, the court shall immediately appoint the public defender or private counsel to represent the proposed limited conservatee."

The Court notes that the Legislative intent is to protect persons with developmental disabilities, and that therefore, conservatees in proceedings to appoint successor conservators, or co-conservators for ongoing cases established prior to the 1981 creation of "limited" conservatorships, deserve equal protection.

Considering the mission of the Court to perform its duties in the most timely fashion to serve the best interests of persons in these proceedings, the Court finds that the appointment of the Public Defender to provide the required representation on a standing or ongoing basis would best accomplish this goal.

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. The Siskiyou County Public Defender is appointed to represent proposed limited conservatees in the initial proceedings to establish a limited conservatorship, and also to represent all developmentally disabled persons in proceedings to appoint a successor conservator or successor limited conservator, or to appoint a co-conservator or a limited co-conservator.
2. The Public Defender shall have the authority to review:
 - Medical and mental health records, including any regional center, day program, or third-party service provider records;
 - Estate planning records, including the proposed limited conservatee's wills, trusts, powers of attorney and advanced health care directives, including any will, trust, or power of attorney naming the proposed limited conservatee as a beneficiary or agent;
 - Financial records, including the proposed conservatee's bank accounts, investments, and other financial records;
 - Siskiyou County family court or guardianship records in which the proposed limited conservatee was a minor or party subject to the court's jurisdiction
3. The Public Defender is authorized to speak directly with the proposed limited conservatee's medical, mental health, and service treatment providers.

Dated: June 24, 2025


JoAnn M. Bicego, Presiding Judge