Guardianship News
from Spectrum Institute

November 2018

Comment: The following news stories about adult guardianship or conservatorship are being circulated by the Disability and Guardianship Project of Spectrum Institute to persons interested in guardianship and conservatorship reform. The stories are extracted from the Newsfeed of the organization's Disability and Abuse Project. Many thanks to Debra J. Stemmler for her research and to Dr. Nora J. Baladerian for funding the Newsfeed service.

– Thomas F. Coleman, Legal Director

"Letter: Guardianship problems" - U.S. News & World Report states that Arizona is one of the top 3 states for rampant guardianship fraud. U.S. Senate Committee on Aging met Wednesday with a scathing report on professional guardianship fraud. It's estimated over $300 billion dollars of net worth is controlled by guardians, including trust assets that are routinely controlled by conscripting trustees into guardianship/conservatorship. – Tucson.Com – November 30, 2018 – (Arizona) - https://is.gd/pqOUtg

"How Justin Clark's Fight for Independence Transformed Disability Rights in Canada" - Following the ruling, guardianship laws were re-examined, and in some provinces, rewritten. Disability rights advocates say there is still a long way to go, but Clark's case paved the way for other people with disabilities fighting to make their own decisions, rather than have legal guardians make them on their behalf. - CBC- November 25, 2018- (Canada) - https://is.gd/DuvBAS

"Courts Fail To Protect 1.3 Million Vulnerable Americans In Guardianship Charges Senate Report" - Unscrupulous guardians acting with little oversight have used guardianship proceedings to obtain control of vulnerable individuals and have then used that control to liquidate assets and savings for their own personal benefit," the Committee, led by Maine Senator Susan Collins, asserts in the study, which took a year to complete. – Forbes – November 28 ,2018 – (National) - https://is.gd/OR4ot0

“The Guardianship Accountability Act” - Senator Bob Casey says states need to do more to protect older Americans. Casey released the new report during a Senate aging committee hearing on Wednesday. –PA Homepage – November 29, 2018 – (National) - https://is.gd/SNMONs

“Couple Not Told of Special Guardianship Money Implications, Ombudsman Finds” - A report by the local government and social care ombudsman concluded Bedford council had not enabled ‘Mr and Mrs X’, who were experienced professional foster carers, to make a fully informed decision. – Community Care – November 27, 2018 – (United Kingdom) - https://is.gd/q7rk2i

“Joint Judiciary Drops Guardianship Termination Bill” - More specific guidelines of guardianship terminations and orders were sought in a drafted bill by the Wyoming Legislature’s Joint Judiciary Committee Thursday, but the bill did not carry a majority and will not be sponsored by the committee in the upcoming legislative session starting Jan. 8. -The Sheridan Press – November 16, 2018 – (Wyoming) - https://is.gd/rSoKZE

“The Guardian is Guilty: April Parks, Others Plead Guilty in Guardianship Abuse Case” - Four people collectively facing over 250 felony charges for crimes against the elderly are taking plea deals. Their convictions bring to an end what KTNV started nearly four years ago -- the most significant guardianship exploitation case in Nevada history. – KTNV – November 5, 2018 – (Nevada) - https://is.gd/F45xXT