Capacity Assessment Workgroup
An Advisory Committee of Spectrum Institute

Spectrum Institute has convened a Capacity Assessment Workgroup to review the current capacity assessment process in probate conservatorship proceedings in California. Spectrum Institute is a nonprofit organization advocating for disability rights and conservatorship reform.

The workgroup will identify any deficiencies in policy and practice and develop specific proposals to improve the capacity assessment process. The underlying goal is to ensure that seniors and people with disabilities retain as much independence as feasible and that due process is afforded in proceedings that threaten their decision-making rights.

The workgroup is focusing on the role of petitioners, medical and mental health professionals, social workers, judges, court investigators, ADA coordinators, court-appointed attorneys, professional fiduciaries, public guardians and regional center employees as they conduct assessments of a respondent’s capacity to make various types of decisions.

Members of the workgroup include physicians, mental health professionals, attorneys, elder care consultants, disability rights advocates, public agency officials, and people whose lives have been directly affected by the probate conservatorship process.

In consultation with the workgroup, Spectrum Institute will issue a report and recommendations to the Judicial Council, Legislature, and Governor.

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Workgroup Members:
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