

Conservator of Estate Program (COE)

Description:

The Department of Social Services' Commissioner may be appointed conservator of estate for eligible individuals when persons are incapable of making decisions on their own. The Department of Social Services (DSS) conservatorship can only be obtained through Probate Courts when there is no other person who can act as an individual's conservator. Individuals must meet financial eligibility criteria. The Conservator of estate is responsible for financial issues associated with the client including, financial transactions and money management. Appointment of the Commissioner of Social Services is intended to be a last resort. It is considered only after the court finds an individual incapable of managing his or her own affairs and (1) has property rights, which will be wasted or dissipated unless proper management is provided; and/or (2) funds are needed for the person's and/or his or her dependent's support, care or welfare. DSS central office staff act as conservator of estate designees.

The Department of Social Services does not accept voluntary appointment as a conservator. Probate Courts provide forms for submitting petitions and instructions on how to file for conservatorship.

Eligibility Requirements, Service Areas and Program Year:

Eligibility Requirements:

- Must be age 60 or older.
- Must have no more than \$1,600 in liquid assets. Liquid assets include all cash and any resources, which can readily be converted to cash. It excludes burial insurance and certain pre-paid funeral expenses.
- Probate Court must determine that the person is incapable of managing his/her own affairs and that there is no other suitable person to serve as conservator.

Service Areas:

Statewide

Program Year:

July 1 – June 30

Contact Information:

Connecticut Department of Social Services
Social Work Service Division
Conservator of Estate Program
25 Sigourney Street

Hartford, CT 06106
Telephone: 860-424-5241

To determine which Probate Courts serve specific areas or to obtain forms for submitting petitions to file for conservatorship, persons can call the local Town Hall, access the blue pages of the telephone directory or www.jud.ct.gov/probate to obtain locations and telephone numbers of Probate Courts serving specific areas or call:

Probate Court Administration
186 Newington Road
West Hartford, CT 06111
Telephone: 860-231-2442

Related Information:

N/A