

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 1998 RECONVENED SESSION

CHAPTER 787

An Act to amend and reenact §§ 2.1-1.6, 9-6.25:1, 37.1-134.6 and 37.1-134.19 of the Code of Virginia, to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 24 of Title 2.1 a designation for Article 1 and an article numbered 2, consisting of sections numbered 2.1-373.10 through 2.1-373.14, and by adding a section numbered 37.1-134.14:1, relating to creation of a public guardian and conservator program.

[S 394]

Approved April 22, 1998

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 2.1-1.6, 9-6.25:1, 37.1-134.6 and 37.1-134.19 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted, that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 24 of Title 2.1 a designation for Article 1 and an article numbered 2, consisting of sections numbered 2.1-373.10 through 2.1-373.14, and by adding a section numbered 37.1-134.14:1 as follows:

§ 2.1-1.6. State boards.

A. There shall be, in addition to such others as may be established by law, the following permanent collegial bodies affiliated with a state agency within the executive branch:

Accountancy, Board for
Aging, Advisory Board on the
Agriculture and Consumer Services, Board of
Air Pollution, State Advisory Board on
Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, Virginia
Apple Board, Virginia State
Appomattox State Scenic River Advisory Board
Aquaculture Advisory Board
Architects, Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Landscape Architects, State Board for
Art and Architectural Review Board
Athletic Board, Virginia
Auctioneers Board
Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology, Board of
Aviation Board, Virginia
Barbers, Board for
Branch Pilots, Board for
Bright Flue-Cured Tobacco Board, Virginia
Building Code Technical Review Board, State
Catoclin Creek State Scenic River Advisory Board
Cattle Industry Board, Virginia
Cave Board
Certified Seed Board, State
Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Board
Chickahominy State Scenic River Advisory Board
Child Abuse and Neglect, Advisory Board on
Chippokes Plantation Farm Foundation, Board of Trustees
Clinch Scenic River Advisory Board
Coal Mining Examiners, Board of
Coal Research and Development Advisory Board, Virginia
Coal Surface Mining Reclamation Fund Advisory Board
Conservation and Development of Public Beaches, Board on
Conservation and Recreation, Board of
Contractors, Board for
Corn Board, Virginia
Correctional Education, Board of
Corrections, State Board of
Cosmetology, Board for
Criminal Justice Services Board
Dark-Fired Tobacco Board, Virginia
Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing, Advisory Board for the Department for the
Dentistry, Board of
Design-Build/Construction Management Review Board

Education, State Board of
 Egg Board, Virginia
 Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board, State
 Farmers Market Board, Virginia
 Fire Services Board, Virginia
 Forestry, Board of
 Funeral Directors and Embalmers, Board of
 Game and Inland Fisheries, Board of
 Geology, Board for
 Goose Creek Scenic River Advisory Board
 Health, State Board of
 Health Planning Board, Virginia
 Health Professions, Board of
 Hearing Aid Specialists, Board for
 Hemophilia Advisory Board
 Historic Resources, Board of
 Housing and Community Development, Board of
 Irish Potato Board, Virginia
 Juvenile Justice, State Board of
 Litter Control and Recycling Fund Advisory Board
 Marine Products Board, Virginia
 Medical Advisory Board, Department of Motor Vehicles
 Medicare and Medicaid, Advisory Board on
 Medicine, Board of
 Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services Board, State
 Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers Board
 Military Affairs, Board of
 Mineral Mining Examiners, Board of
 Minority Business Enterprise, Interdepartmental Board of the Department of
 Networking Users Advisory Board, State
 Neurotrauma Initiative Advisory Board, Commonwealth
 North Meherrin State Scenic River Advisory Board
 Nottoway State Scenic River Advisory Board
 Nursing, Board of
 Nursing Home Administrators, Board of
 Occupational Therapy, Advisory Board on
 Oil and Gas Conservation Board, Virginia
 Opticians, Board for
 Optometry, Board of
 Peanut Board, Virginia
 Personnel Advisory Board
 Pesticide Control Board
 Pharmacy, Board of
 Physical Therapy to the Board of Medicine, Advisory Board on
 Plant Pollination Advisory Board
 Polygraph Examiners Advisory Board
 Pork Industry Board, Virginia
 Poultry Products Board, Virginia
 Private College Advisory Board
 Private Security Services Advisory Board
 Professional and Occupational Regulation, Board for
 Professional Counselors, Board of
 Professional Soil Scientists, Board for
 Psychiatric Advisory Board
 Psychology, Board of
 Public Broadcasting Board, Virginia
 Public Buildings Board, Virginia
Public Guardian and Conservator Advisory Board
 Radiation Advisory Board
 Real Estate Appraiser Board
 Real Estate Board
 Reciprocity Board, Department of Motor Vehicles
 Recreation Specialists, Board of
 Recreational Fishing Advisory Board, Virginia

Reforestation Board
 Rehabilitation Providers, Advisory Board on
 Rehabilitative Services, Board of
 Respiratory Therapy, Advisory Board on
 Rockfish State Scenic River Advisory Board
 Safety and Health Codes Board
 Seed Potato Board
 Sewage Handling and Disposal Appeal Review Board, State Health Department
 Shenandoah State Scenic River Advisory Board
 Small Business Advisory Board
 Small Business Environmental Compliance Advisory Board
 Small Grains Board, Virginia
 Social Services, Board of
 Social Work, Board of
 Soil and Water Conservation Board, Virginia
 Soybean Board, Virginia
 State Air Pollution Control Board
 Substance Abuse Certification Board
 Surface Mining Review, Board of
 Sweet Potato Board, Virginia
 T & M Vehicle Dealers' Advisory Board
 Teacher Education and Licensure, Advisory Board on
 Transportation Board, Commonwealth
 Transportation Safety, Board of
 Treasury Board, The, Department of the Treasury
 Veterans' Affairs, Board on
 Veterinary Medicine, Board of
 Virginia Board for Asbestos and Lead
 Virginia Coal Mine Safety Board
 Virginia Correctional Enterprises Advisory Board
 Virginia Cotton Board
 Virginia Employment Commission, State Advisory Board for the
 Virginia Geographic Information Network Advisory Board
 Virginia Horse Industry Board
 Virginia Manufactured Housing Board
 Virginia Retirement System, Board of Trustees
 Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, Advisory Commission on the
 Virginia Sheep Industry Board
 Virginia Veterans Cemetery Board
 Virginia Waste Management Board
 Visually Handicapped, Virginia Board for the
 Voluntary Formulary Board, Virginia
 War Memorial Foundation, Virginia, Board of Trustees
 Waste Management Facility Operators, Board for
 Water Resources Research Center Statewide Advisory Board, Virginia
 Waterworks and Wastewater Works Operators, Board for
 Well Review Board, Virginia.

B. Notwithstanding the definition for "board" as provided in § 2.1-1.2, the following entities shall be referred to as boards:

Compensation Board
 State Board of Elections
 State Water Control Board
 Virginia Parole Board
 Virginia Veterans Care Center Board of Trustees.

CHAPTER 24.

DEPARTMENT FOR THE AGING.

Article 1.

General; Long-Term Care Ombudsman.

Article 2.

Virginia Public Guardian and Conservator Program.

§ 2.1-373.10. Policy statement; Virginia Public Guardian and Conservator Program established.

The General Assembly declares that it is the policy of the Commonwealth to ensure that persons who cannot adequately care for themselves because of incapacity (in this article, also referred to as "clients") are able to meet essential requirements for physical and emotional health and management of

financial resources with the assistance of a guardian or conservator, as appropriate, in circumstances where (i) the incapacitated person's financial resources are insufficient to fully compensate a private guardian or conservator and pay court costs and fees associated with the appointment proceeding and (ii) there is no other proper and suitable person willing and able to serve in such capacity. In order to ensure that the protection and assistance of a guardian or conservator are available to all incapacitated persons in the Commonwealth, there is hereby established the statewide Virginia Public Guardian and Conservator Program (hereinafter, "the Program") within the Department for the Aging to (i) facilitate the creation of local or regional programs to provide services as public guardians or conservators and (ii) fund, coordinate, administer and manage such programs.

§ 2.1-373.11. Definitions.

The definitions found in § 37.1-134.6 shall apply to this article.

§ 2.1-373.12. Powers and duties of the Department.

A. The Department shall fund from appropriations received for such purpose a statewide system of local or regional public guardian and conservator programs.

B. The Department shall:

1. Make and enter into all contracts necessary or incidental to the performance of its duties and in furtherance of the purposes as specified in this article in conformance with the Public Procurement Act (§ 11-35 et seq.).

2. Contract with local or regional public or private entities to provide services as guardians and conservators operating as local or regional Virginia Public Guardian and Conservator Programs in those cases in which a court, pursuant to § 37.1-134.14:1, determines that a person is eligible to have a public guardian or conservator appointed.

3. Promulgate reasonable regulations in accordance with the Administrative Process Act (§ 9-6.14:1 et seq.) as appropriate to implement, administer and manage the state and local or regional programs authorized by this article, including, but not limited to: adoption of minimum training and experience requirements for volunteers and professional staff of the local and regional programs; adoption of an ideal range of staff to client ratios for the programs; adoption of procedures to be followed whenever a local or regional program falls below or exceeds the ideal range of staff to client ratios, which shall include, but not be limited to, procedures to ensure that services shall continue to be available to those in need and that appropriate notice is given to the courts, sheriffs, where appropriate, and the Department; and adoption of procedures governing disqualification of any program falling below or exceeding the ideal range of staff to client ratios, which shall include a process for evaluating any program which has exceeded the ratio to assess the effects falling below or exceeding the ideal range of ratios has had or is having upon the program and upon the incapacitated persons served by the program. The regulations shall require that such evaluations occur no less frequently than every six months and shall continue until the staff to client ratio returns to within the ideal range.

4. Establish procedures and administrative guidelines to ensure the separation of local or regional Virginia Public Guardian and Conservator Programs from any other guardian or conservator program operated by the entity with whom the Department contracts, specifically addressing the need for such separation in programs that may be fee-generating.

5. Establish record-keeping and accounting procedures to ensure that each local or regional program (i) maintains confidential, accurate and up-to-date records of the personal and property matters over which it has control for each incapacitated person for whom it is appointed guardian or conservator and (ii) files with the Department an account of all public and private funds received.

6. Establish criteria for the conduct of and filing with the Department and as otherwise required by law: values history surveys, annual decisional accounting and assessment reports, the care plan designed for the incapacitated person and such other information as the Department may by regulation require.

7. Establish criteria to be used by the local and regional programs in setting priorities with regard to services to be provided.

8. Take such other actions as are necessary to ensure coordinated services and a reasonable review of all local and regional programs.

9. Maintain statistical data on the programs and report to the General Assembly on or before January 1 of each year as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents regarding the status of the Virginia Public Guardian and Conservator Program and the developing trends with regard to the need for guardians, conservators and other types of surrogate decision-making services.

10. Recommend appropriate legislative or executive actions.

C. Nothing in this article shall prohibit the Department from contracting pursuant to subdivision B 2 of this section with an entity which may also provide privately funded surrogate decision-making services, including guardian and conservator services funded with fees generated by the estates of incapacitated persons, provided such private programs are administered by the contracting entity entirely separately from the local or regional Virginia Public Guardian and Conservator Programs, in conformity with regulations established by the Department in that respect.

D. In accordance with the Public Procurement Act (§ 11-35 et seq.) and recommendations of the Board, the Department may contract with a not-for-profit private entity which does not provide services to incapacitated persons as guardian or conservator to administer the program, and, if it does, the term "Department" when used in this article shall refer to the contract administrator.

§ 2.1-373.13. Public Guardian and Conservator Advisory Board created; duties; membership; terms.

There is hereby created the Public Guardian and Conservator Advisory Board (the "Board") which shall report to and advise the Commissioner on the means for effectuating the purposes of this article and shall assist in the coordination and management of the local and regional programs appointed to act as public guardians and conservators pursuant to Chapter 4 (§ 37.1-128.01 et seq.) of Title 37.1. The Board shall provide advice and counsel on the provision of high quality guardianship service and avoidance of conflicts of interest, promote the mobilization of activities and resources of public and private sector entities to effectuate the purposes of this article, and make recommendations regarding appropriate legislative and executive actions, including, but not limited to, recommendations governing alternatives for local programs to follow upon repeal of the authority granted to the courts pursuant to § 37.1-134.19 to appoint the sheriff as guardian or conservator when the maximum staff to client ratio of the local program is met or exceeded.

The Board shall consist of no more than fifteen members who shall be appointed by the Governor as follows: one representative of the Virginia Guardianship Association; one representative of the Virginia Area Agencies on Aging, one representative of the Virginia State Bar, one active or retired circuit court judge upon recommendation of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, one representative of the Association of Retarded Citizens, one representative of the Virginia Alliance for the Mentally Ill, one representative of the Virginia League of Social Service Executives, one representative of the Association of Community Service Boards, the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services or his designee, the Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services or his designee, the Director of the Virginia Department for the Rights of Virginians with Disabilities or his designee, and one person who is a member of the Governor's Advisory Board for the Department for the Aging and such other individuals who may be qualified to assist in the duties of the Board.

The Commissioners of the Departments of Social Services and Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services or their designees, the Director of the Virginia Department for the Rights of Virginians with Disabilities or his designee, and the representative of the Board for the Department for the Aging, shall serve terms coincident with their terms of office or in the case of designees, the term of the Commissioner or Director. Of the other members of the Board, five of the appointees shall serve for four-year terms and the remainder shall serve for three-year terms. No member shall serve more than two successive terms. A vacancy occurring other than by expiration of term shall be filled for the unexpired term. Each year, the Board shall elect a chairman and a vice-chairman from among its members. Five members of the Board shall constitute a quorum. Members shall receive no compensation for their services but shall be reimbursed for all reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the discharge of their duties as members of the Board.

§ 2.1-373.14. Minimum requirements for local programs; authority.

Every local or regional program with which the Department contracts to provide services as a public guardian or conservator shall (i) furnish bond with corporate surety in an amount deemed sufficient by the Department to afford adequate financial protection to the maximum number of incapacitated persons to be served by the program; (ii) have in place a multi-disciplinary panel to (a) screen cases for the purpose of ensuring that appointment of a guardian or conservator is appropriate under the circumstances and is the least restrictive alternative available to assist the incapacitated person and (b) continually review cases being handled by the program as required by the Department; (iii) accept only appointments as guardian or conservator which generate no fee or would generate a minimal fee as defined by regulation payable from a public source of funds and not from the estate of the incapacitated person; (iv) have a direct service staff to client ratio which is consistent with that specified by regulation of the Department; and (v) develop a plan, in consultation with the local circuit court and sheriffs where appropriate, to provide advance notice to the court when the program falls below or exceeds the ideal range of staff to client ratios in order to assure continuity of services. Volunteers shall not be counted for purposes of ascertaining compliance with the staff to client ratio specified by the Department.

A local or regional program which exceeds the specified staff to client ratio is not disqualified from serving as a guardian or conservator except as provided by regulation or if the court or the Department finds that there is an immediate threat to the person or property of any incapacitated person or that exceeding the specified ratio is having or will have a material and adverse effect on the ability of the program to properly serve all of the incapacitated persons it has been designated to serve.

A local or regional program appointed as a guardian or conservator shall have all the powers and duties specified in Chapter 4 (§ 37.1-128.01 et seq.) of Title 37.1, except as otherwise specifically limited by the court. In addition, a public guardian or conservator shall have a continuing duty to seek a proper and suitable person who is willing and able to serve as guardian or conservator for the

incapacitated person. A public guardian shall not have authority to admit an incapacitated person to a psychiatric hospital or mental health facility without a civil commitment proceeding, or to approve or authorize a sterilization procedure except when specific authority has been given pursuant to a proceeding in the circuit court. A public guardian may authorize mental health treatment, including the administration of psychotropic medication, unless the appointing court specifically provides otherwise.

A local or regional program appointed as a guardian or conservator may delegate the powers, duties and responsibilities to individual volunteers or professional staff as authorized in the contract with the Department.

In addition to funds received from the Department, a local or regional program may accept private funds solely for the purposes of providing public education, supplemental services for incapacitated persons and support services for private guardians and conservators, consistent with the purposes of this article.

§ 9-6.25:1. Advisory boards, commissions and councils.

There shall be, in addition to such others as may be designated in accordance with § 9-6.25, the following advisory boards, commissions and councils within the executive branch:

- Advisory Board for the Department for the Aging
- Advisory Board for the Department for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing
- Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect
- Advisory Board on Medicare and Medicaid
- Advisory Board on Occupational Therapy
- Advisory Board on Physical Therapy to the Board of Medicine
- Advisory Board on Rehabilitation Providers
- Advisory Board on Respiratory Therapy to the Board of Medicine
- Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure
- Advisory Commission on the Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind
- Advisory Council on Revenue Estimates
- Advisory Council on the Virginia Business-Education Partnership Program
- Appomattox State Scenic River Advisory Board
- Aquaculture Advisory Board
- Art and Architectural Review Board
- Board for the Visually Handicapped
- Board of Directors, Virginia Truck and Ornamentals Research Station
- Board of Forestry
- Board of Military Affairs
- Board of Rehabilitative Services
- Board of Transportation Safety
- Board of Trustees of the Family and Children's Trust Fund
- Board of Visitors, Gunston Hall Plantation
- Board on Veterans' Affairs
- Catoctin Creek State Scenic River Advisory Board
- Cave Board
- Chickahominy State Scenic River Advisory Board
- Clinch Scenic River Advisory Board
- Coal Surface Mining Reclamation Fund Advisory Board
- Coastal Land Management Advisory Council, Virginia
- Commonwealth Competition Council
- Council on Indians
- Council on the Status of Women
- Debt Capacity Advisory Committee
- Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board
- Falls of the James Committee
- Goose Creek Scenic River Advisory Board
- Governor's Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Problems
- Governor's Mined Land Reclamation Advisory Committee
- Hemophilia Advisory Board
- Human Services Information and Referral Advisory Council
- Interagency Coordinating Council on Housing for the Disabled
- Interdepartmental Board of the State Department of Minority Business Enterprise
- Litter Control and Recycling Fund Advisory Board
- Local Advisory Board to the Blue Ridge Community College
- Local Advisory Board to the Central Virginia Community College
- Local Advisory Board to the Dabney S. Lancaster Community College
- Local Advisory Board to the Danville Community College
- Local Advisory Board to the Eastern Shore Community College

Local Advisory Board to the Germanna Community College
 Local Advisory Board to the J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
 Local Advisory Board to the John Tyler Community College
 Local Advisory Board to the Lord Fairfax Community College
 Local Advisory Board to the Mountain Empire Community College
 Local Advisory Board to the New River Community College
 Local Advisory Board to the Northern Virginia Community College
 Local Advisory Board to the Patrick Henry Community College
 Local Advisory Board to the Paul D. Camp Community College
 Local Advisory Board to the Piedmont Virginia Community College
 Local Advisory Board to the Rappahannock Community College
 Local Advisory Board to the Southside Virginia Community College
 Local Advisory Board to the Southwest Virginia Community College
 Local Advisory Board to the Thomas Nelson Community College
 Local Advisory Board to the Tidewater Community College
 Local Advisory Board to the Virginia Highlands Community College
 Local Advisory Board to the Virginia Western Community College
 Local Advisory Board to the Wytheville Community College
 Maternal and Child Health Council
 Medical Advisory Board, Department of Motor Vehicles
 Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers Board
 Motor Vehicle Dealer's Advisory Board
 North Meherrin State Scenic River Advisory Board
 Nottoway State Scenic River Advisory Board
 Personnel Advisory Board
 Plant Pollination Advisory Board
 Private College Advisory Board
 Private Enterprise Commission
 Private Security Services Advisory Board
 Psychiatric Advisory Board
Public Guardian and Conservator Advisory Board
 Radiation Advisory Board
 Rappahannock Scenic River Advisory Board
 Recreational Fishing Advisory Board, Virginia
 Reforestation Board
 Rockfish State Scenic River Advisory Board
 Shenandoah State Scenic River Advisory Board
 Small Business Advisory Board
 Small Business Environmental Compliance Advisory Board
 St. Mary's Scenic River Advisory Committee
 State Advisory Board for the Virginia Employment Commission
 State Advisory Board on Air Pollution
 State Building Code Technical Review Board
 State Health Benefits Advisory Council
 State Land Evaluation Advisory Council
 State Networking Users Advisory Board
 State Public Records Advisory Council
 Statewide Independent Living Council
 Statewide Rehabilitation Advisory Council
 Statewide Rehabilitation Advisory Council for the Blind
 Staunton Scenic River Advisory Committee
 Telecommunications Relay Service Advisory Board
 Virginia-Israel Advisory Board
 Virginia Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations
 Virginia Advisory Council for Adult Education and Literacy
 Virginia Coal Mine Safety Board
 Virginia Coal Research and Development Advisory Board
 Virginia Commission for the Arts
 Virginia Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution
 Virginia Correctional Enterprises Advisory Board
 Virginia Council on Coordinating Prevention
 Virginia Equal Employment Opportunity Council
 Virginia Geographic Information Network Advisory Board
 Virginia Interagency Coordinating Council

Virginia Military Advisory Council
 Virginia Public Buildings Board
 Virginia Recycling Markets Development Council
 Virginia Technology Council
 Virginia Transplant Council
 Virginia Veterans Cemetery Board
 Virginia Water Resources Research Center, Statewide Advisory Board
 Virginia Winegrowers Advisory Board.

§ 37.1-134.6. Definitions.

As used in this chapter, unless a different meaning is clearly required by the context:

"Advance directive" shall have the same meaning as provided in the Health Care Decisions Act (§ 54.1-2981 et seq.).

"Conservator" means a person appointed by the court who is responsible for managing the estate and financial affairs of an incapacitated person; and, where the context plainly indicates, includes a "limited conservator" or a "temporary conservator." *The term includes a local or regional program designated by the Department for the Aging as a public conservator pursuant to Article 2 (§ 2.1-373.10 et seq.) of Chapter 24 of Title 2.1.*

"Estate" includes both real and personal property.

"Guardian" means a person appointed by the court who is responsible for the personal affairs of an incapacitated person, including responsibility for making decisions regarding the person's support, care, health, safety, habilitation, education, therapeutic treatment, and, if not inconsistent with an order of commitment, ~~regarding the person's residence~~. Where the context plainly indicates, the term includes a "limited guardian" or a "temporary guardian." *The term includes a local or regional program designated by the Department for the Aging as a public guardian pursuant to Article 2 (§ 2.1-373.10 et seq.) of Chapter 24 of Title 2.1.*

"Incapacitated person" means an adult who has been found by a court to be incapable of receiving and evaluating information effectively or responding to people, events, or environments to such an extent that the individual lacks the capacity to (i) meet the essential requirements for his health, care, safety, or therapeutic needs without the assistance or protection of a guardian or (ii) manage property or financial affairs or to provide for his or her support or for the support of *his* legal dependents without the assistance or protection of a conservator. A finding that the individual displays poor judgment, alone, shall not be considered sufficient evidence that the individual is an incapacitated person within the meaning of this ~~subsection~~ *definition*.

"Limited conservator" means a person appointed by the court who has only those responsibilities for managing the estate and financial affairs of an incapacitated person as specified in the order of appointment.

"Limited guardian" means a person appointed by the court who has only those responsibilities for the personal affairs of an incapacitated person as specified in the order of appointment.

"Property" includes both real and personal property.

"Respondent" means an allegedly incapacitated person for whom a petition for guardianship or conservatorship has been filed.

§ 37.1-134.14:1. Eligibility for public guardian or conservator.

The circuit court may appoint a local or regional program authorized by the Department for the Aging pursuant to Article 2 (§ 2.1-373.10 et seq.) of Chapter 24 of Title 2.1 as the guardian or conservator for any resident of the Commonwealth who is found to be incapacitated if the court finds that (i) the incapacitated person's resources are insufficient to fully compensate a private guardian and pay court costs and fees associated with the appointment proceeding and (ii) there is no other proper and suitable person willing and able to serve in such capacity. The guidelines for determining indigency set forth in § 19.2-159 shall be used by the court in determining the sufficiency of the respondent's estate. If the respondent would be eligible for the appointment of counsel pursuant to § 19.2-159, he shall be eligible for the appointment of a public guardian or conservator pursuant to this section.

§ 37.1-134.19. When no guardian or conservator appointed within one month of adjudication.

If a person is not appointed guardian or conservator within one month from the adjudication, the court on motion of any interested person, may appoint a guardian or conservator or, until January 1, 1999 2000, may commit the person and/or the estate of the incapacitated person to the sheriff of the county or city in which the respondent resides. If the estate is committed to the sheriff, he shall be *the* conservator, and he and the sureties on his official bond shall be bound for the faithful performance of the trust.