



PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**FLORIDA STATE GUARDIANSHIP ASSOCIATION MEMBERS WEBINAR AND ANNUAL MEETING
FEATURED GUARDIAN ROUNDTABLE FACILITATED BY THREE LOCAL SEASONED PROFESSIONALS**

WEST PALM BEACH, FL – July 27, 2021 – On Friday, June 23, 2021 Robin Phemister, NCG of Solutions by RPM, Inc.; Pam Wiener, RG Ph.D., director of guardianship at Ferd & Gladys Alpert Jewish Family Service (Alpert JFS); Penny Maitner, MA, NCG, president of the Palm Beach Guardianship Association (PBGA); and Attorney Lois B. Lepp, PA spoke to an audience of 160 at the Florida State Guardianship Association (FSGA) Members Webinar and Annual Meeting about the important and vital services that guardians provide to vulnerable adults.

Lepp led the first session, addressing confidentiality, guiding guardians on the information that must be shared, and information that should not be shared, according to Florida statute(s) throughout the guardianship and to whom. The second session, a guardianship roundtable discussion with Maitner, Phemister and Wiener, spoke to topics ranging from how to implement recent legislative changes to management of assets. The professionals, with varying backgrounds and experiences, offered resources to address the challenges associated with the incarceration of Wards and best practices regarding end-of-life decisions that honor Wards' wishes, as well as suggestions on how to provide safe spaces for family interaction.

"We, as guardians, must respond to the requirements of the Court with regard to the person under guardianship, as well as being responsible for safeguarding the assets and income to ensure the care of those under guardianship," said Maitner. "It is a privilege as well as a responsibility to provide the best care and decisions for the most vulnerable among us."

"I believe it is necessary in this profession to mentor, guide and encourage one another," said Phemister. "Sessions like this offer insight on what has been done before to help guardians navigate some extremely difficult situations and determine a sensitive, practical solution. It was an honor for me to present alongside my esteemed co-panelists."

The Florida State Guardianship Association is a dynamic not-for-profit member organization made up of guardians, attorneys, case providers, fiduciaries, social workers, nurses, court and clerk staff, and many other disciplines. There are 16 chapters with members who meet regularly for education, training, networking, and development opportunities.

Established in 1974, Ferd & Gladys Alpert Jewish Family Service is a nationally accredited service provider for children, adults, seniors, and Holocaust survivors. The non-profit, non-sectarian organization is a trusted leader, with a team of nearly 200 highly skilled professionals delivering high-quality care to community members. Alpert JFS works to ensure the well-being of children and families, independence of older adults and quality-of-life for individuals with disabilities. For more information, visit AlpertJFS.org or phone 561-684-1991.

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