

SELF-SERVICE CENTER

HELPFUL INFORMATION: HOW TO FILE AN OBJECTION TO A PETITION ABOUT A GUARDIANSHIP AND/OR CONSERVATORSHIP

- 1. WHO CAN FILE AN OBJECTION:** Generally, you must have some valid interest in the case to be able to file an OBJECTION TO A PETITION about a guardianship or conservatorship. If you received copies of the court papers from the Petitioner or his/her attorney, you will probably be allowed to file an Objection. You can find the exact fees and costs that are charged for any particular matter by calling the Clerk of the Court at 602-506-6185 or on their website at:
<http://clerkofcourt.maricopa.gov/fees.asp>
- 2. WHEN MUST AN OBJECTION BE FILED:** You must file the Objection no later than 5 (five) days before the Court hearing is scheduled.
- 3. WHO GETS COPIES OF THE OBJECTION:** Mail or hand-deliver a copy of your Objection to the Petitioner or his/her attorney, and the office of the Judge who is scheduled to hold the hearing. If you do not copy the Judge's office, the Judge might not get the paperwork on time, and your Objection might not be considered.

You should also **mail or hand-deliver** copies to the person who has or will have the guardian or conservator (ward), and everyone else to whom the petitioner gave notice of the court matter. Ask the Petitioner for the names and address of these people, or come to the Clerk's Office and look at the copy of the **PROOF OF NOTICE** filed by the Petitioner that will give you all this information.
- 4. WHAT TO SAY IN THE OBJECTION:** Tell the Judge as simply as you can what you object to, and why. Write neatly in **black ink**, and be sure you give enough detail about why you disagree with the Petition.
- 5. GOING TO THE HEARING:** If you file the Objection, you should go to the Court hearing to be available to tell the Judge why you disagree with the Petition and to answer any questions the Judge might have. It is up to the Judge to let you testify or not. The Judge will make this decision based upon your relationship with the ward, the nature of your objections, time available, and other factors.
- 6. OTHER HELP:** If you still have questions about this procedure, you can ask a lawyer for legal advice. You can look up a lawyer in the telephone book under "attorneys." Also, the Self-Service Center has a list of lawyers who will help you help yourself. The list shows where the lawyers are located, how much they charge to look over the court papers or answer your questions, and what their experience is. Visit the Self-Service Center to get the names of some of the lawyers on this list.