



**SUPREME COURT APPELLATE DIVISION
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PRESIDING JUSTICE RELEASES "BEST PRACTICES HANDBOOK" FOR GUARDIANSHIP PROCEEDINGS

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS, N.Y. - Presiding Justice A. Gail Prudenti of the Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Second Judicial Department, is pleased to announce the release of a "Best Practices Handbook" intended to serve as a guide for Administrative Judges, Guardianship Judges, court personnel, and members of the bar who practice in the dedicated guardianship parts throughout the Second Judicial Department. The handbook is the result of the Guardianship Task Force's Report and Recommendations and the public comments received in response thereto. The Best Practices Handbook is now available to the public on the Forms and Practice Aids page of the court's website at www.nycourts.gov/courts/ad2/formsandpracticeaids.shtml/. For members of the public without internet access, copies of the handbook may be obtained by writing to the Clerk of the Court, James Edward Pelzer, at 45 Monroe Place, Brooklyn, New York 11201.

(more)

Guardianship Task Force Report - 2

The formation of the Guardianship Task Force is one of several initiatives launched by Justice Prudenti, after consultation with Chief Administrative Judge Jonathan Lippman, in response to the issues set forth in the Report of the Grand Jury of the Supreme Court, Queens County, Concerning Thefts from Guardianship released in March 2004. According to Justice Prudenti, the development of this Best Practices Handbook is "an important first step in addressing the issues which require our immediate attention. Our mutual goal is to provide the most professional of services to a segment of our community which needs our assistance during some of the most difficult times in their lives."

Included among the best practices endorsed by Justice Prudenti are the implementation of active case management in the dedicated Guardianship Parts, the posting of unpublished Guardianship decisions on the website of the Office of Guardian and Fiduciary Services, requiring the newly created position of Court Examiner Specialist to, among other duties, closely monitor the functions of Court Examiners, the appointment of a Guardianship Task Force Subcommittee to develop a uniform Order and Judgment and the launching of a pilot project to establish a Model Guardianship Part.

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