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From: Kathleen Buchanan
To: inet:musgrove@co.clark.nv.us
Date: 3/2/03 4:49PM
Subject: Re: AB 151

The Clark County Public Guardian's Office supports this bill.

Currently our office manages approximately 700 individuals in the Guardianship Program and nearly 400 individuals in the Representative Payeeship Program. Deputizing case managers will give them authority to act on behalf of the Public Guardian when interfacing with various institutions in matters that require immediate action. The court gives the Guardian authority to make all decisions regarding the assets and/or person of the ward. Due to the scope and sensitivity of this authority, many institutions such as financial establishments, hospitals and medical facilities are reluctant or will not comply with requests and needs of the Public Guardian's Office, unless I personally make the request and provide an original signature on the documents. This, as one might appreciate, can be extremely detrimental to the individuals served by the Office in cases where time is of the essence in securing and protecting assets or receiving medical treatment.

The assignment of deputies will ensure the timely withdrawals/closures of bank accounts to guarantee Medicaid and County eligibility for wards/clients. Furthermore, it will assist in expediently securing at risk assets from exploiters. Likewise, hospitals and medical facilities will be more comfortable in allowing deputized case managers to sign consents for treatment on behalf of the Guardian.

This bill has my full support as it will only add clarity to an already cloudy issue with service providers. Passing this bill will only protect those wards/clients being served by guardians.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to speak on AB 151.

CC: Catherine Masto; Kathleen Buchanan; Rhonda Stevens

ASSEMBLY JUDICIARY

DATE: 3-3-03 ROOM 3138 EXHIBIT H

SUBMITTED BY: Kathleen Buchanan

H-1081