

Case Scenario

There is a 36-year-old woman, Paula, who lives in your county. She lives on the street but has family in the county, including her grandmother, who she refuses to live with. She was adjudicated incompetent by the clerk three years ago. Another GAL attorney was appointed and served as Paula's counsel in that proceeding. The clerk originally appointed Paula's aunt as the guardian of her person but after one year Paula's aunt petitioned to resign as GOP. The clerk then appointed the county department of social services to serve as Paula's GOP who has been serving as GOP for the last two years. Paula is diagnosed with schizophrenia and substance use disorder for alcohol and drugs. She has no assets. Paula has been subject of two IVC orders in the recent months. Her grandmother files a motion in the cause with the clerk indicating her concerns about Paula's condition and the lack of care she is receiving. Her grandmother is very worried that Paula continues to live on the street and does not appear to be receiving any regular mental health or substance use treatment. She also includes in her motion her concerns that that Paula has been engaging in sexual activity in exchange for drugs. In response to the motion in the cause, you are appointed by the clerk as Paula's GAL in the proceeding.