



LEGAL SERVICES *of*
EASTERN MISSOURI

MISSOURI
DEPARTMENT OF
MENTAL HEALTH
SPRING TRAINING
INSTITUTE

JUNE 1, 2017

USING LEGAL ADVOCACY TO IMPROVE MENTAL HEALTH OUTCOMES

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St. Louis, MO



Saint Louis Mental Health Board

INVESTING IN PROGRAMS THAT WORK



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Generating Positive Mental Health Outcomes: It Takes a Village



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INVESTING IN PROGRAMS THAT WORK

WHO CAN HAVE AN EFFECT ON AN INDIVIDUAL'S MENTAL HEALTH OUTCOME?

Physician/Therapist

Social Worker (LCSW and MSW)

Family Members and Friends

Policy-Makers

Healthcare Administrators

Insurance Companies

Peers and Community Members

Social Service Agencies/Non-Profits

WHAT NON-CLINICAL FACTORS CAN INFLUENCE MENTAL HEALTH OUTCOMES?

- Housing Instability
 - Homelessness
 - Food Insecurity
 - Financial Insecurity
 - Out of Control Debt
 - Health Insurance Coverage
 - Planning for the Worst (Or Lack Thereof)
 - Ability to Work
 - Family Dynamics
 - Stigma
 - Involvement with Criminal Justice System
 - T R A U M A
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Lawyers: The World's Most Helpful People



Lawyers can serve as a valuable member of the team working for excellent mental health outcomes. They are uniquely positioned to eliminate certain barriers and problems that can have a significant effect on the mental wellbeing of and prospects for improvement for many people being treated for mental illness.



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WHERE CAN A LAWYER BE HELPFUL?

- Social Security Disability Appeals
- Other Public Benefits
- Medicare/Medicaid
- Housing
- Estate Planning
- Powers of Attorney
- Advanced Healthcare Directives
- Criminal Defense
- Discrimination
- Family Law
- Orders of Protection
- Consumer/Predatory Lending
- Manic Spending Fallout
- Employment
- Receipt of Proper Care
- Deinstitutionalization
- Guardianships
- Re-Entry



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CONTENT WARNING

Police Violence

Death

Incarceration



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CRIMINAL LAW



- **Criminal Defense**
 - **Pre-Trial**
 - **Bond**
 - **Plea Bargain**
 - **At Trial**
 - **Zealous Defense**
 - **Role of Mental Illness**
- **Diversion**
 - **Mental Health Court**
 - **Holistic or “Wrap-Around” services**
- **Community Competency Model**
- **CIT and Other Training for Officers**





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Where Do I Work Most Frequently?



210 Cases Opened As of April 2017

51 Housing

44 Family, Including OPs

39 Social Security Disability

24 Estate Planning Documents

52 All Other Categories



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What Can You Do?



Extensive Social History to
Screen for Common Problems

Create a checklist

Listen and look for signs

Training by And Collaboration
with Lawyers

Hire a lawyer to advocate for your
patients!

Medical-Legal Partnerships

Trauma-Informed Care

Be Systematic



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DOES THIS GET RESULTS?



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Yes

Results vary based on patient

Prevention is preferable to
reaction

Address problems before they
become crises

Plan for eventualities, however
unlikely

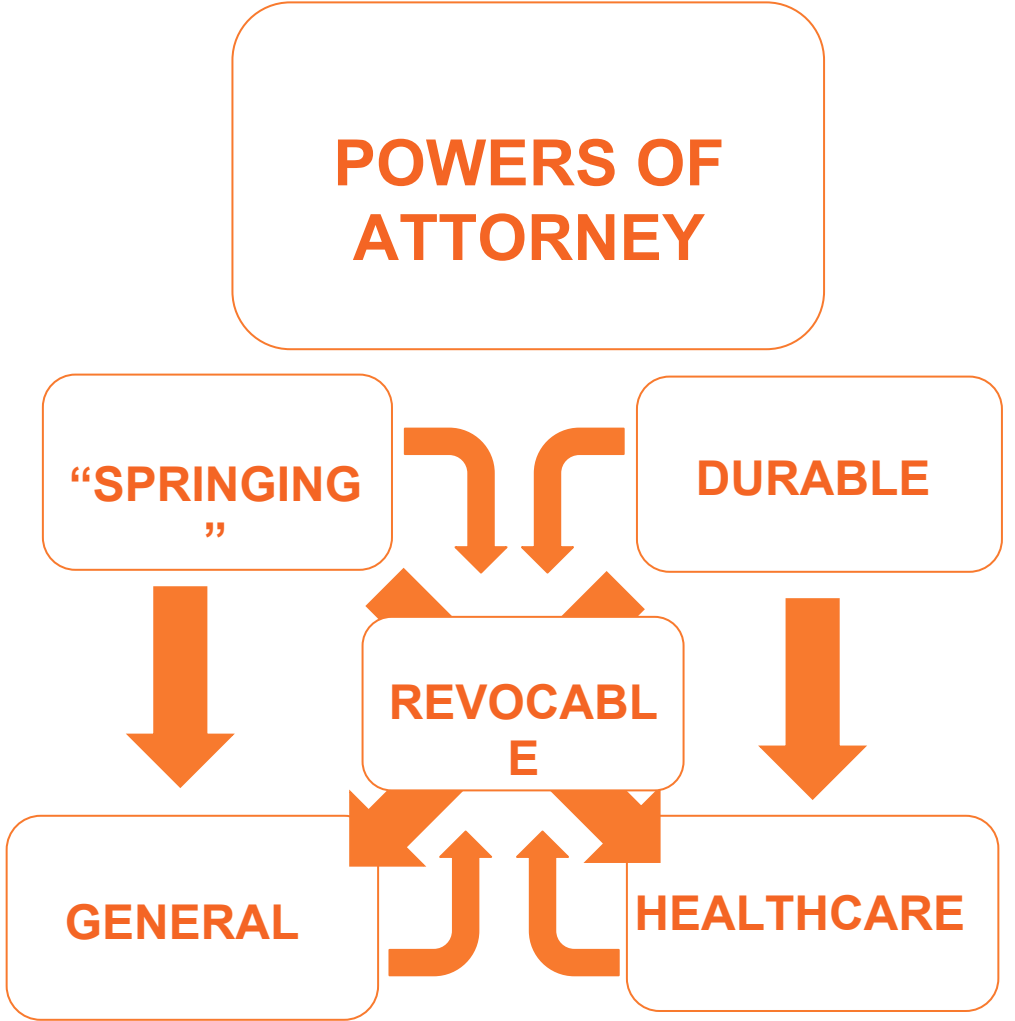
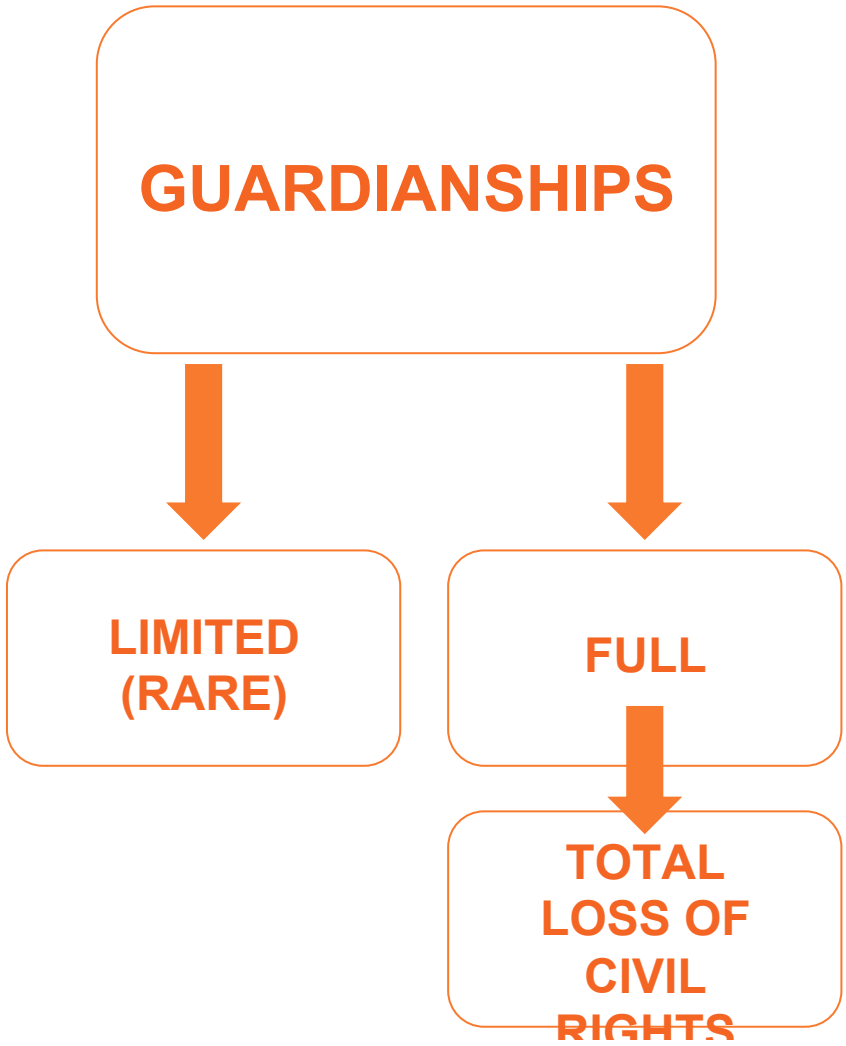
POWERS OF ATTORNEY AND GUARDIANSHIPS

POWERS OF ATTORNEY

- Voluntary
- Revocable
- No Court Intervention Necessary
- Maximum Empowerment for Patient

GUARDIANSHIPS

- Non-voluntary
 - Irrevocable Without Court Order
 - Only Ordered by Court
 - Patient Loses Civil Rights
-



ANECDOTAL EVIDENCE!



**THANK YOU
VERY MUCH!**

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**I welcome your
questions and
comments!**
