



**LAUREN L. BRODIE**  
CIRCUIT JUDGE  
TWENTIETH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

COLLIER COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
3315 TAMiami TRAIL EAST, SUITE 203  
NAPLES, FLORIDA 34112

TELEPHONE  
(239) 252-8909

September 1, 2020

Re: Urgent Need for Medical Professionals as Forensic Evaluators in Collier County

Dear Doctors and Affiliated Members of the Collier County Medical Society,

The 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit of Florida possesses opportunities for forensic evaluators willing to be appointed to serve on a three-member guardianship examining committee (*GEC*). Under Florida law, each guardianship case must possess a *GEC*, and each *GEC* must possess a member that is a psychiatrist or other physician, and two additional members that may be a:

- Psychologist
- Gerontologist
- Registered Nurse
- Nurse Practitioner
- Licensed Social Worker, and/or
- Person with Advanced Degree in Gerontology

At present, this Circuit's registry list possesses only one medical doctor receiving forensic-evaluator appointments within Collier County and only eight other professionals within Collier County.

Any above listed medical professional interested in serving as a forensic evaluator may complete the one-page application in order to seek the Chief Judge's approval to join the registry available at <http://www.ca.cjis20.org/home/main/ew.asp>. Medical professionals needing to complete the statutorily required four hours of initial *GEC* training should be pleased to know that our staff will deliver the training and training materials in a manner that is customized to each office's needs wholly free of charge. Please feel free to submit an incomplete application as a means to let us know that you'd like to discuss finding a training plan that best fits your office's needs.

A *GEC* member, is required to provide a comprehensive exam that includes a physical examination, a mental health examination and a functional assessment. Upon completion, a written

report is delivered to the court that includes:

1. To the extent possible, a diagnosis, prognosis, and recommended course of treatment.
2. An evaluation of the alleged incapacitated person's ability to retain her or his rights.
3. The results of the comprehensive exam.
4. A description of any matters with respect to which the person lacks the capacity to exercise rights.
5. The names of all persons present during the time the member conducted the exam, and
6. The signature of the committee member and the date and time the member conducted his or her exam.

Remuneration for services rendered are paid by the courts in the case of indigent status or dismissal. Otherwise, fees are paid by the guardian from the property of the ward. Our staff provides support services whenever confusion may arise regarding the proper payer. Initial GEC evaluations performed by an M.D., D.O. or Ph.D. are paid a statewide, flat-rate of \$350.00 per exam, while all other medical professionals are compensated \$250.00. In addition, travel expenses are compensable according to Florida statutory rates.

At this time, virtual assessments and evaluations are permitted. Thank you very much for your time and consideration regarding these essential services within our community. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Judge Lauren L. Brodie  
3315 Tamiami Trail East, Suite 203  
Naples, FL 34112  
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