

WHAT IS A FIDUCIARY?

A fiduciary is a court appointed financial professional responsible for management, administration and guardianship of an individual or decedents' estate when there is no other person qualified and able to perform these duties.

Counties are required by statute to establish a public fiduciary and their office (A.R.S. §14-5601).

Fiduciaries are certified by the state supreme court and must adhere to the rules the court establishes.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- **AT LEAST 21 YEARS OLD**
- **U.S. CITIZEN**
- **NOT CONVICTED OF A FELONY**
- **NOT FOUND LIABLE FOR FINANCIAL FRAUD OR MISCONDUCT**

PUBLIC FIDUCIARIES:

QUALIFICATIONS, DUTIES AND COMPENSATION

Duties:

- Serves as the representative, guardian, conservator of an individual or decedents' estate
- Arranges services and placement for mentally ill and severely developmentally disabled clients
- Possesses and manages personal property of individuals or decedents
- Sells property if necessary to pay for funeral expenses, administrative costs or other estate claims
- Distributes property to estate representatives, successors or heirs
- Pays estate shares for heirs under 18 without guardians
- Makes funeral arrangements and pays for funeral costs
- Files annual accounting reports describing estate status

COMPENSATION:

- **Salary and office expenses are county costs.**
- **Cost of services are offset in part by the managed estate.**
- **If the estate is unable to pay administrative costs, state law mandates the county must pay the remaining balance.**