



**Guardianship Abuse Forum and *THE GUARDIANS* Documentary
Guaranteed to Send Shock Waves in Tampa Feb 20**

FREE Event "Preventing Abuse and Protecting Rights" Open to Public
NATIONAL EXPERTS TO SPEAK AT TAMPA THEATER ON PROTECTING SENIORS' RIGHTS

(Tampa, FL – February 13, 2019) - Kidnapping, corruption, lies, theft, and deceit. While these things have all the makings of a Hollywood movie, it is reality for many elderly people caught up in a corrupt national court system with guardians who are forcibly removing them from their homes, isolating them from their families and emptying their bank accounts.

THE GUARDIANS, a 2018 award-winning documentary that examines this systemic abuse of elderly people, makes its Florida debut at 7 pm on February 20th at a **free #TampaGuardianshipEvent** at the Tampa Theater. Producer Billie Mintz showcases true stories of Las Vegas seniors with guardians who are forcibly removing them from their homes, isolating them from families and emptying their bank accounts. A discussion led by Tampa legal experts will follow the showing, as the documentary provokes audience questions on how to stop and prevent such abuse and exploitation.

"This is a film where the phrase 'seeing is believing' has never rung truer," states Dr. Sam J. Sugar, organizer of the **#TampaGuardianshipEvent**. "People can't imagine a system of justice in this country that strips its citizens of their Constitutional rights."

"Courts are allowing these abusive guardianships that destroy the lives of our most vulnerable adults," says Sugar, a licensed physician, Certified Florida Probate Court Examiner and founder of Ft. Lauderdale-based *Americans Against Abusive Probate Guardianship* (AAAPG). "Their existing legal documents become void, giving others the right to spend their money and sell their assets, isolate them, and limit the time they can spend with their loved ones."

The free **#TampaGuardianshipEvent** will be held from 2:00 – 11:00 pm EST at the Tampa Theatre, 711 North Franklin Street, Tampa, FL 33602. It is open to the public and admission is **free**. During the afternoon session, guardianship and elder justice experts from around the nation will share critical information on how to prevent guardianships as well as actions necessary to protect individual's rights and those of their loved ones. Additional topics include current legislative efforts, accounting procedures for families, disability rights as well as coping techniques for isolation, over-medication, and estate liquidation often seen in abusive guardianships.

An **estimated 3 million American adults** have been placed into guardianships, including as many **65,000 Floridians** who are deemed "wards of the state." Due to the aging US population, from longer life spans and 10,000 baby boomers turning 65 every day, the number of wards are increasing at a rate of 10% annually. Deemed the *crime of the century*, current figures show that it has become an **over \$1.5 trillion market**; a heinous "cottage industry" of greed waging war against vulnerable adults and their families

"Abusive guardianships are on the rise," warns Sugar. "Although they may constitute a minority of guardianships, for victims and their families trapped in this opaque and highly intrusive, complex legal system, the abuse and vilification they all suffer is unspeakable."

Besides Sugar, who authored ***Guardianships and the Elderly, The Perfect Crime*** (a 2018 Amazon #1 Best New Release), speakers include: *Judge Michelle Morley*, FL Fifth Circuit Court; *Linda Fieldstone*, FL Supreme Court Certified Family Mediator; *Eileen Leslie*, CPA, CFE; *Thomas F. Coleman*, civil rights attorney & Director at Spectrum Institute; *Rick Black*, Director at CEAR; and Tampa attorney *J. Ronald Denman* of Bleakley Bovol Denman and Grace. Attorneys at Law.

Psychiatrist *Gregory Marsella* MD; *Terry Williams*, social scientist and author: *Dale Yeager*, President at SERAPH; *Julie Lynne Belshe*, advocate; *Janet Phelan*, investigative reporter: and *Terri Kennedy*, author and elder justice activist are also confirmed.

For more information, go to www.aaapq.net. For **FREE** reservations and admission tickets, click: [Link for Reservations](#)

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