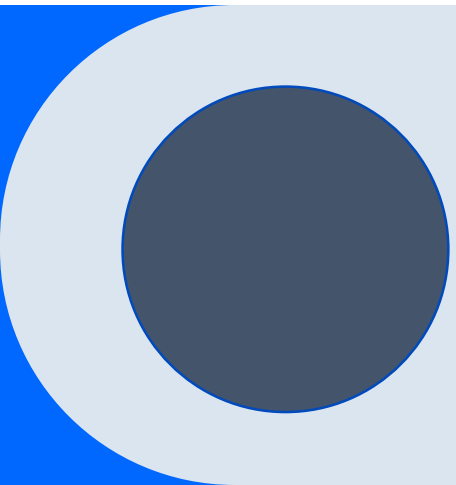
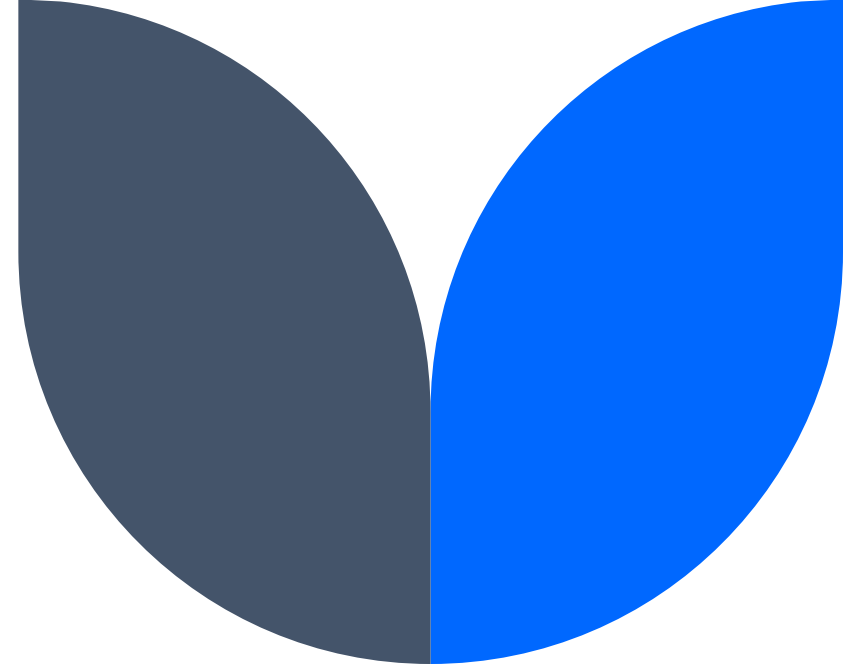




# How to Best Represent Mentally Ill Individuals

Jerome E. Addy III

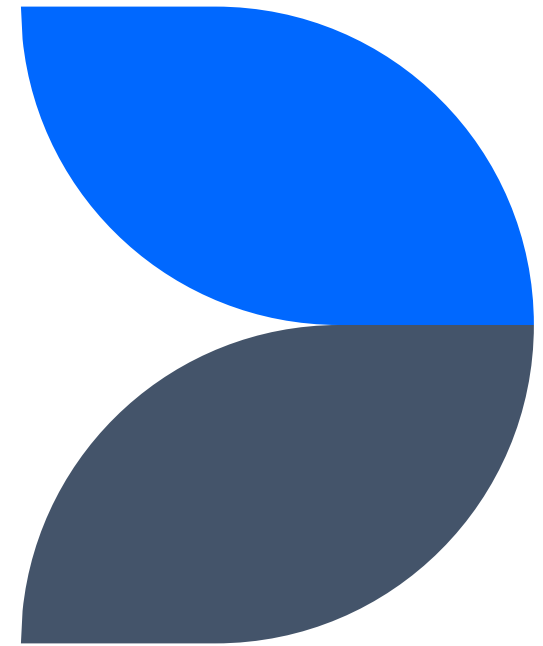


# Introduction

Focus of this presentation is on the personal interaction between the court-appointed attorney and the client living with Mental Illness rather than any legal or procedural concerns.

# Attorney Appointments where you will encounter clients with Mental Illness

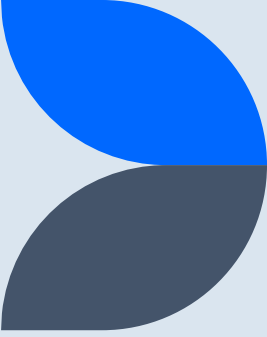
1. Petitions to Terminate Guardianships
2. Review Hearings
3. M.I. Files



# Understanding Mental Illness

“Mental illnesses are **health conditions involving changes in emotion, thinking or behavior** (or a combination of these). Mental illnesses are associated with distress and/or problems functioning in social, work or family activities.”

**The American Psychiatric Association (APA)**



# Empathy:

The ability to understand and share the feelings of another.

**Having empathy increases  
the likelihood of helping  
others and showing  
compassion.**



# STAY CALM

1. There is a contagious effect between two people's nervous systems.
2. We are constantly affected by others and their emotional states.
3. If you keep your emotions calm and regulated, the client will follow your lead.

*Anne M. Sutton MA, LPC*

11/28/2022

How to Best Represent Mentally Ill Individuals

# Courtroom Representation

1. Explain what will happen at the hearing and how we are all expected to act in a courtroom.
2. Strongly emphasize any and all positive things about your client and their particular case so they know that you are “on their side”.
3. Let them speak on their own behalf if they wish, but set parameters for them.



# Thank You!

*Feel free to contact me if I can be of any assistance.*

*Jerry Addy – (313)590-7512*

*estateplanning@addylawfirm.com*