

## Probate Courts in Colorado Update on families October 16, 2017

In 2006 a Probate Audit was done and **August 2017** for Public Administrators. The system allows theft and fraud especially the family members in Guardianship. People who know how the system works take advantage of the laws to unethically profit themselves. The probate court system that handles estates, guardianships and conservatorships in Colorado is broken. Increasing numbers of families who rely on living trusts, poa's and wills find themselves in probate court, the place they sought to avoid. In Colorado, there's no salary cap on what the Guardians or Conservators who serve as Guardians can make from billing estates for their work, which some critics see as an **incentive to prolong court proceedings**.

**41 families** filled out a theft fraud report prepared by Senator Laura Wood's office. Here is a synopsis of the families reporting theft, fraud, and estates being plundered:

**29 families:** gave permission to tell their story with accounting (17 involved a Public Administrator)

**5 families** afraid of retaliation, or unable to speak about their case.

**1 family** Rudy Bush and mother (in guardianship) both died in Jefferson County

**2 cases** in Guardianship –no accounting- (Fled Florida from Guardianship) Dr. in Guardianship

**2 cases** same family (father and daughter in Guardianship Boulder Colorado

**1 new case** \$100,000K a month income War Veteran under Guardianship in Mesa County

**1 case mentioned** in The DENVER WESTWORD Alan Fantin Homeless Millionaire

<http://www.westword.com/news/alan-fantin-finds-new-home-after-colorado-probate-court->

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**5 active cases** being drained, 2 in mesa county, one Aurora co, 1 Littleton co, 1 Longmont co

**9 cases** sent to a **forensic accountant** from victims in Arapahoe County

**1 FBI involvement** in Delta County (by Senator Laura Woods-# of Cases growing)

**16 families** under Guardianship. All Trusts, Wills and POA's voided.

**11 districts-** Arapahoe, Jefferson, Pitkin, Adams, **Boulder**, Mesa, Delta, Denver, ElPaso, Elbert, Logan

**Prior Value of estates before Probate Court;** \$56,076,390.30 (over 56 million)

**Fees Paid to Attorneys to defend from asset seizure;** \$6,065,311.56 (over 6 Million)

**Remaining Value-settlement on inheritance-** \$ 5,649, 375.21 ( 5.6 Million) given back to **10 families (settlement) theirs to begin with.**

**Total attorney fees and Prior Value total** \$62,141,701.86 (over 62 Million)

The remaining \$45 million in estate value was devoured by various administrative and legal costs, nursing-home fees (no need for a nursing home-had family willing to take care of their loved one) and other contingencies. This allows theft and fraud and many families made homeless and forced onto Medicaid, Medicare and food stamps. You as tax payers are paying for their mistakes. Guardianship reform is needed. There are many family members willing to take care of their parents but are forced into isolation and die alone without family members.

**In five active cases people reporting income \$2K+ Mo were given less than \$300 Mo To live on.** F.A.C.E.U.S. Advocate [www.faceus.org](http://www.faceus.org)

