



# LAW ON THE FRONTLINES:

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## NAVIGATING THE LAW: LIFE AND HEALTH PLANNING



This session is being recorded.

# Today's Crew



**Audrey Dingler**

Thurgood Marshall  
State Law Library



**Joy Hollerbach**

Thurgood Marshall  
State Law Library



**Catherine McGuire**

Thurgood Marshall  
State Law Library



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# The Frontlines Project: Partners & Core Curriculum

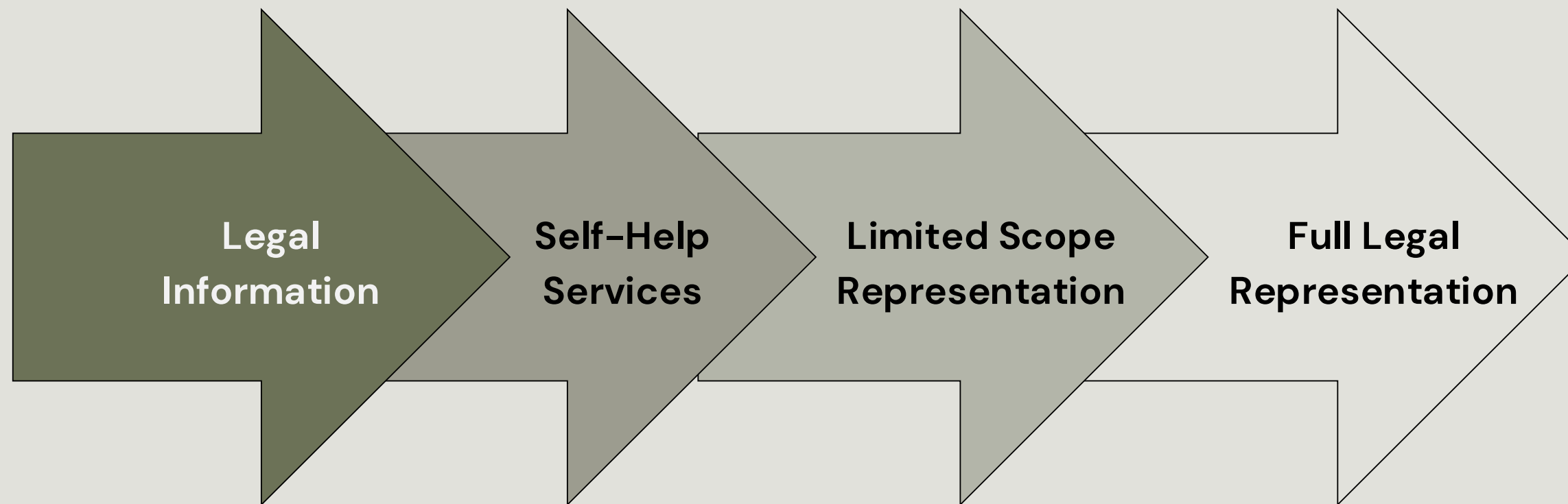
The Frontlines Project includes representatives from the

- **Thurgood Marshall State Law Library,**
- **Conference of Maryland Court Law Library Directors,**
- the **Maryland Access to Justice Commission,** and
- the **Access to Justice Department of the Administrative Office of the Courts.**

Instructors for each course will vary but the information provided is based on the core curriculum of the ongoing Project.

# Access to Justice (A2J)

A quick review...



Public libraries are key players in access to justice!



# Learning Outcomes

## Describe

the general topics under life and health planning.



## Identify

the best descriptive (secondary) resources.



## Utilize

primary resources of law for the topic.



## Assess & Select

options for referrals.

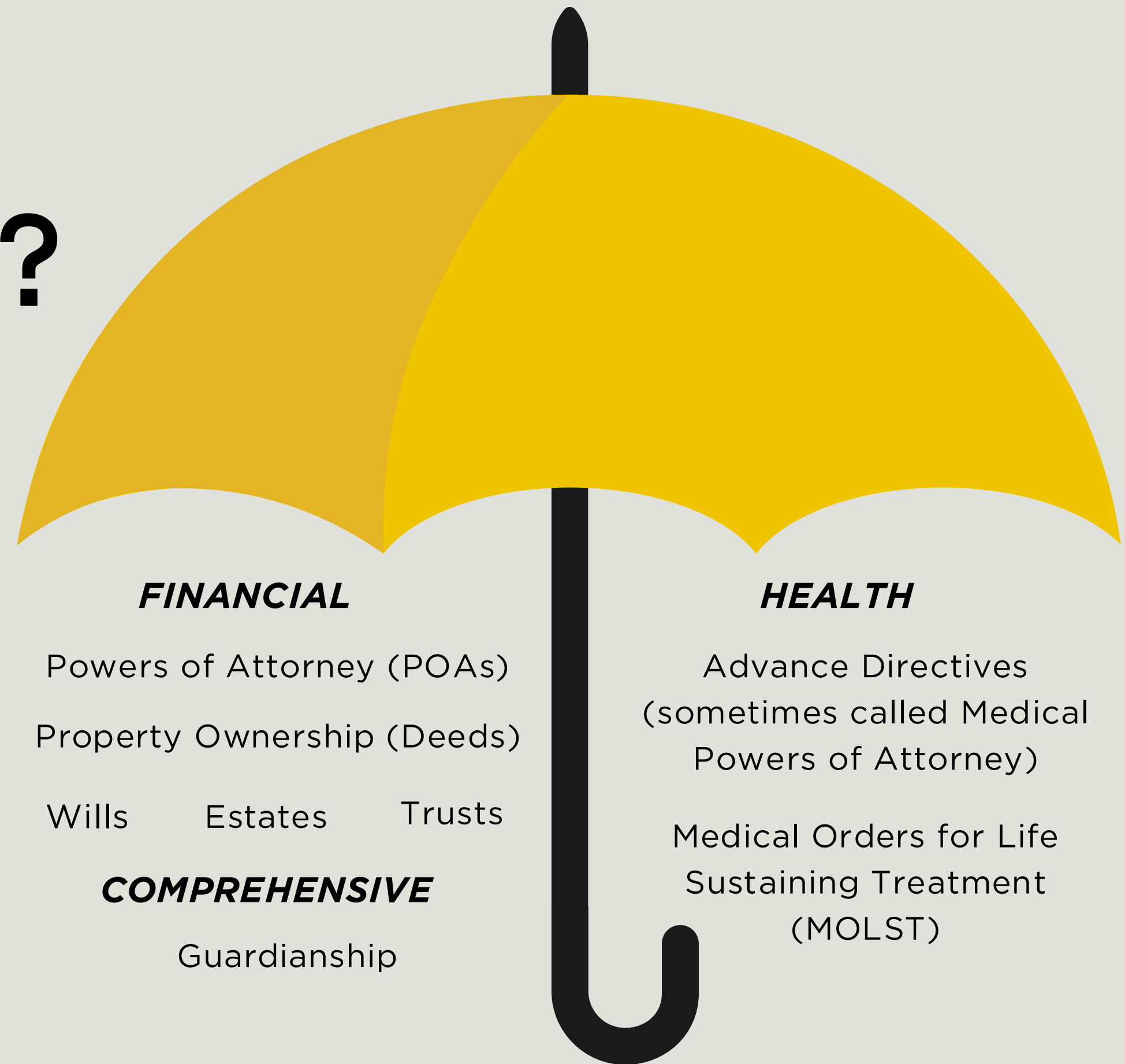


# What is Life and Health Planning?

“Life care and estate planning is important for every Marylander. Regardless of income, wealth or assets, you have the right to make decisions about how your health care and financial affairs will be handled if you lose the capacity to make your own decisions.

You also have the right to decide who should receive your personal belongings and property after you die.”

- [Important Documents for Every Marylander](#)  
People’s Law Library



# Common Areas of Concern



Types of documents.



Filing or storage of documents.



Legal terminology and wording of documents.



Updating or changing documents.



Structuring of guardianships.

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# Details to Know

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**IN MARYLAND, MOST LIFE AND HEALTH PLANNING ISSUES ARE HANDLED AT THE STATE OR COUNTY LEVEL.**

**GUARDIANSHIPS ARE GENERALLY HANDLED BY THE CIRCUIT COURT, WHILE WILLS & PROBATE ARE HANDLED BY THE ORPHANS' COURT.**

**IN GENERAL, LIFE AND HEALTH PLANNING IS A CIVIL MATTER (UNLESS THERE'S FRAUD OR ABUSE).**



# Best Practices Review

## Rephrase

Rephrase the question.



## Gather

details (who, when, what, where, very broadly why)



## Narrow Down

the type of need (info, law text, legal aid, gov services, forms)



## Clarifying Questions Might Sound Like...

What is your goal for today?

What brought you to the library today?

What are you trying to accomplish?

Are you looking for an attorney?

Are you looking for the exact language of the law?

## Identify

the broad topic and terms



## Locate

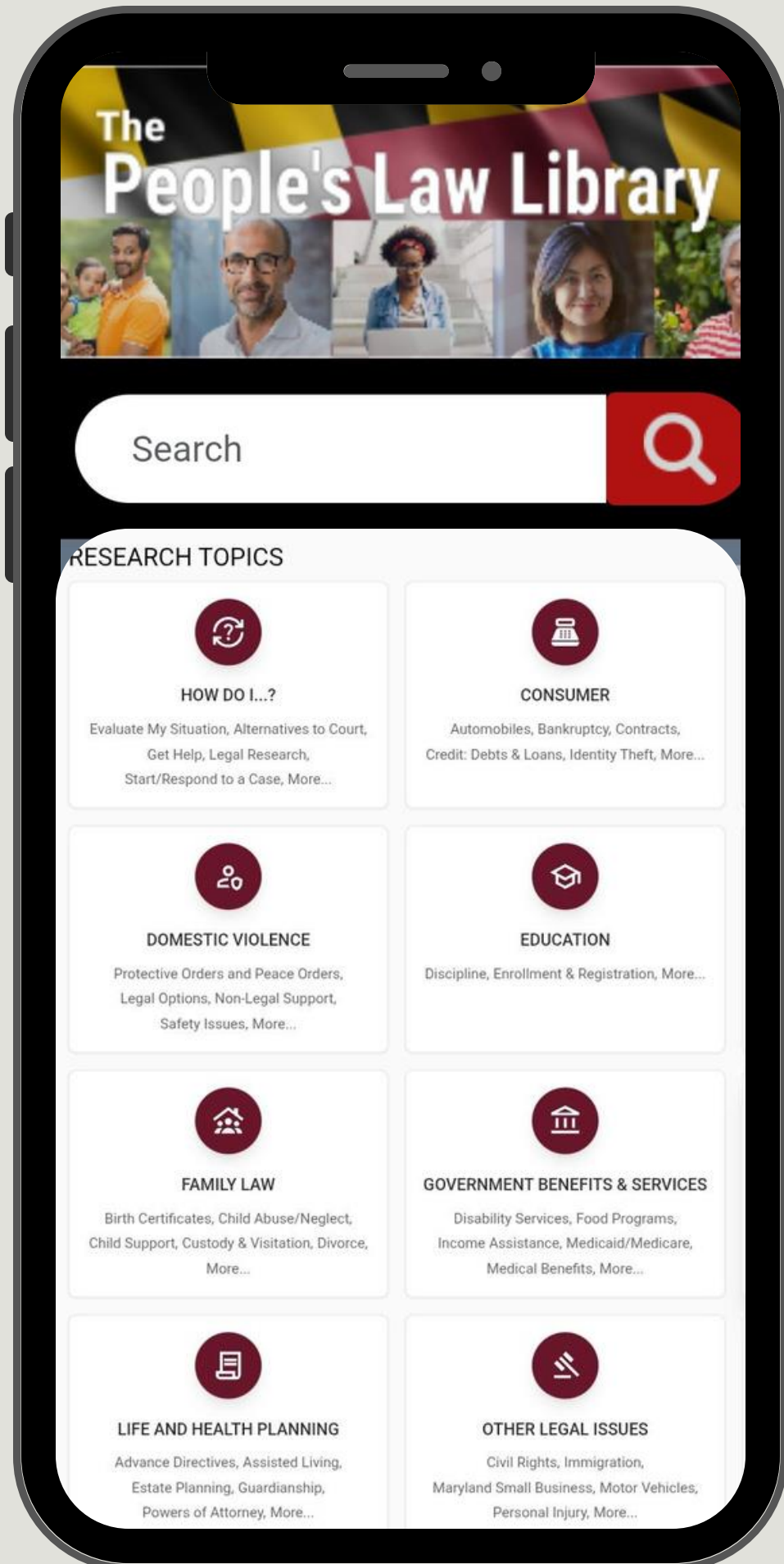
descriptive resources about the law (secondary sources)



## Find

applicable law if needed (primary source)





# SECONDARY SOURCES

[MERRIAM WEBSTER LAW DICTIONARY](#)

[THE PEOPLE'S LAW LIBRARY \(PLL\)](#)

[NOLO \(WEBSITES AND TEXTS\)](#)

[MARYLAND REGISTER OF WILLS](#)

[MARYLAND OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL](#)

[MARYLAND COURT PERSONAL & LIFE PLANNING RESOURCES](#)

# Practice!

## SECONDARY RESOURCES



Using the resources just demonstrated (PLL, MdCourts, Nolo, etc.), see if you can locate resources to respond. Note which resource you used and if and where you found helpful information.

1. My dad was diagnosed with dementia a few years ago and is struggling with financial decisions. How do I get myself appointed his guardian?
2. My sister lives with me in the house I own in Prince George's County. If anything happens to me, I want her to be able to stay in my house. How do I add her name to the deed?
3. I'm a single parent and I need to travel more for work. My parents have agreed to watch my child when needed. What do I need to do so they can make decisions about school and health if I'm unavailable?

DROP YOUR RESPONSES IN CHAT

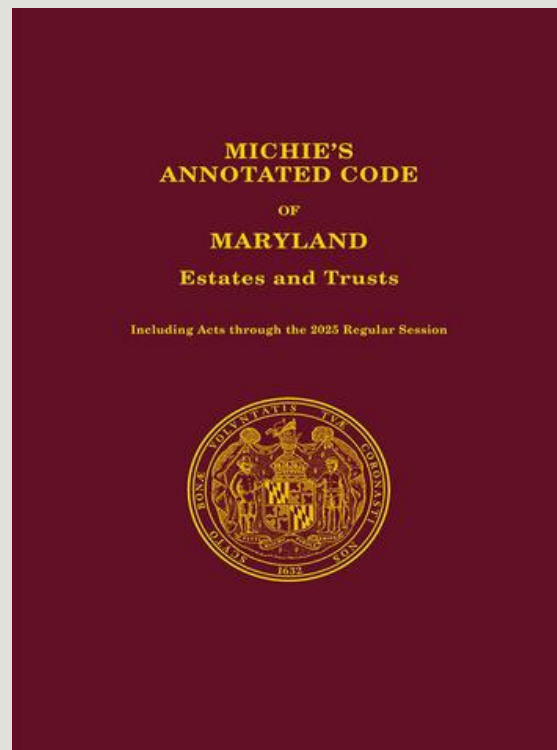
**Any  
questions?**



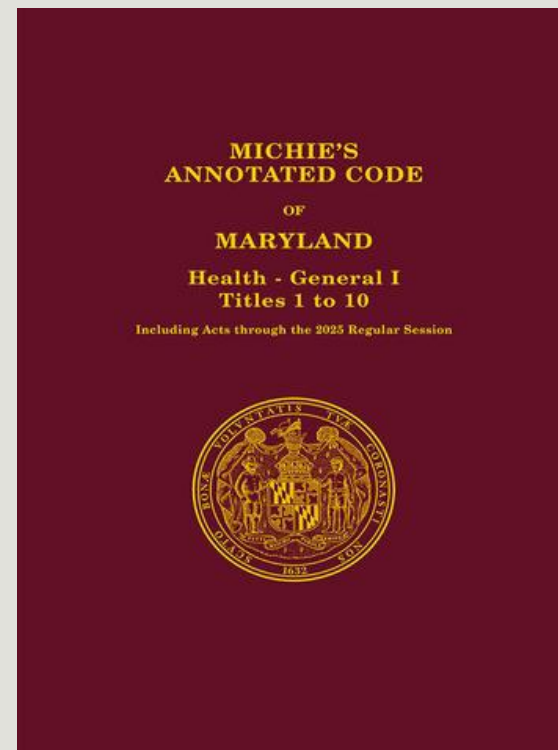
# Maryland Code (Substantive Law)

# PRIMARY SOURCES

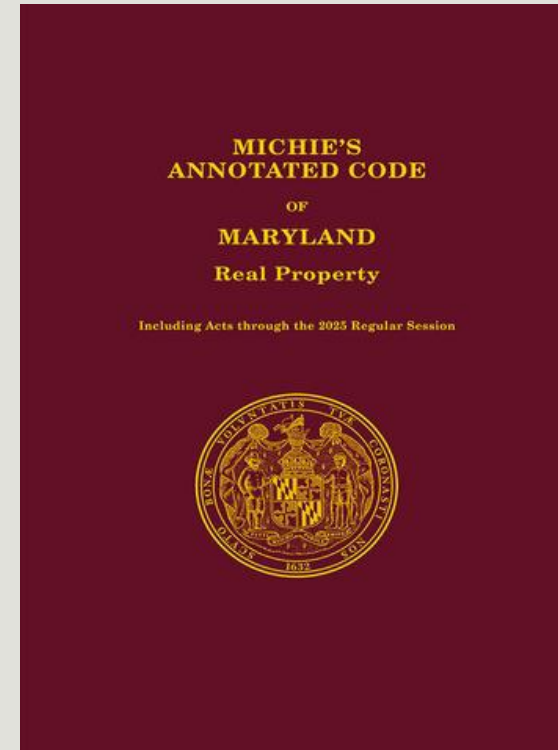
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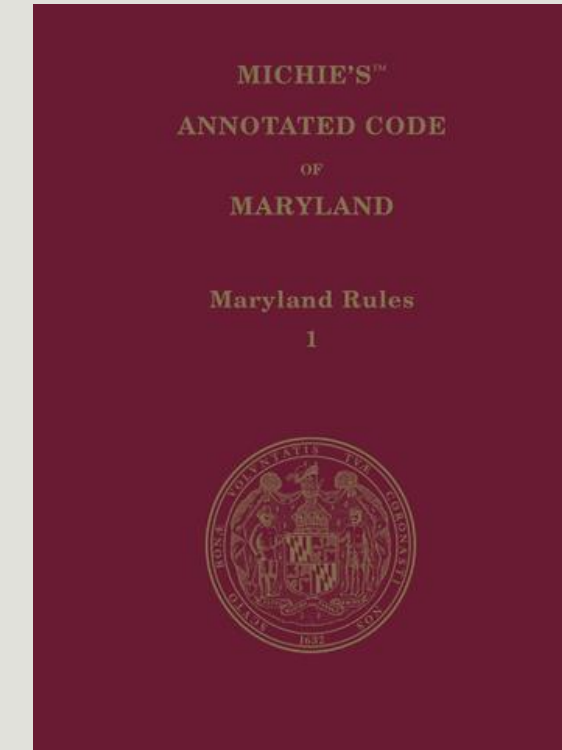
Maryland Code,  
Estates & Trusts Article



Maryland Code,  
Health-General Article



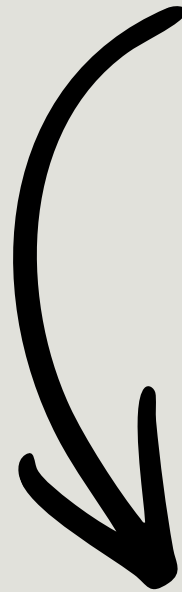
Maryland Code,  
Real Property Article



Maryland Rules

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# Maryland Rules (Court Procedure)





**Mr. Robert (Bob)  
Stockphotoman**

# Practice

One of your regular patrons, Bob Stockphotoman, is doing some end-of-life planning. Specifically, Bob wants to know:

1. Where can I find the statutory limited power of attorney form?
2. I need to find the legal requirements for a will and print them out.  
Where can I find the requirements for a will?

Using the primary law sources we just walked through (Maryland Code and the Maryland Rules) see if you can locate the information Mr. Stockphotoman is looking for.

**DROP YOUR FINDINGS IN THE CHAT!**



# Finding Forms: Sample & Statutory

## **GUARDIANSHIPS**

[Maryland Family Law Court Forms](#)

## **POWERS OF ATTORNEY**

[Maryland Code, Estates & Trusts, 17-202 and 17-203](#)

## **HEALTH PLANNING**

[Maryland Department of Health Advance Directive Program](#)  
[Maryland MOLST](#)

## **WILLS**

Gale Legal Forms (Database)  
Nolo's Quicken WillMaker (of note, this is a commercial product)

## **ESTATES**

[Maryland Register of Wills](#)

## **CIVIL PROCEDURE & MORE!**

[Recommended Titles for the Core Collection: A Guide for Maryland Court Law Libraries](#)

[Maryland Court Law Libraries Directory](#)



# Referrals!

Using the [PLL Legal Clinic Calendar](#) filter your search by selecting the “life and health planning” category.



[Pro Bono Resource Center \(PBRC\) Home Preservation Project](#)



[Shore Legal Access](#)



[Maryland Volunteer Lawyer Service \(MVLS\)](#)



[Court Help Centers](#). Assistance with life and health planning topics is limited. Call your local courthouse ahead of time to check for services. Note: not all family help centers assist with adult guardianship.



[Maryland Court Law Libraries](#) may be able to give localized referrals to legal aid organizations.



[Maryland Department of Aging](#)

# Assess Your Knowledge!

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TAKE WHAT YOU LEARNED TODAY TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING:

1. Which jurisdictions (or jurisdiction) are usually involved when dealing with life and health planning?

- a.** State
- b.** County
- c.** State and county
- d.** Federal

2. In general, are life and health planning situations handled through the courts?

- a.** Yes
- b.** No

3. Which of the following agencies or organizations can assist with certain life and health planning topics?

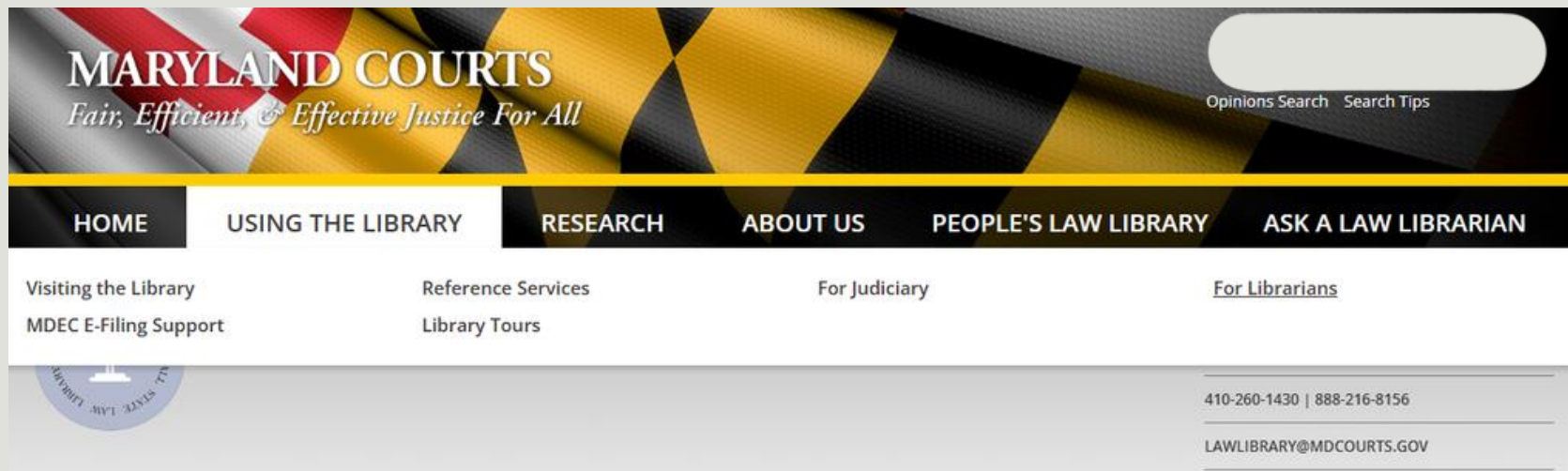
- a.** Shore Legal Access
- b.** Maryland Volunteer Lawyer Service (MVLS)
- c.** Maryland Area Agencies on Aging
- d.** All of the above

4. Which of the following would NOT be considered a life and health planning topic?

- a.** Powers of Attorneys
- b.** Expungement
- c.** Deeds
- d.** Advance Directives

DROP YOUR ANSWERS IN THE CHAT!

# Legal Information Resources For Library Staff:



## \* Maryland Public Library Toolkit

Designed for public library staff as a reference guide to Maryland primary and secondary legal resource.

## \* Frontlines Handbook

## \* Frontlines Past & Future Training Sessions

We are starting to put together the **Fall 2026** training sessions for Frontlines!

Are there some topics you would like to know more about? Complete our survey to let us know!



We're tabling at MLA-DLA on Thursday, May 7th! Be sure to swing by the vendor hall and say hello!

**If you have any  
questions, don't  
hesitate to reach out!**

[Thurgood Marshall State Law Library](#)

410-260-1430  
lawlibrary@mdcourts.gov

[A2J Department, Administrative Office of the Courts](#)

410-260-1258  
inquiries@mdcourts.gov

[MD Access to Justice Commission](#)

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[Maryland Court Law Library Directory](#)

