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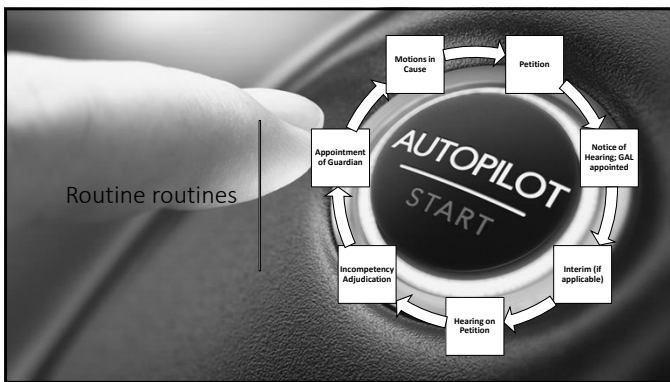
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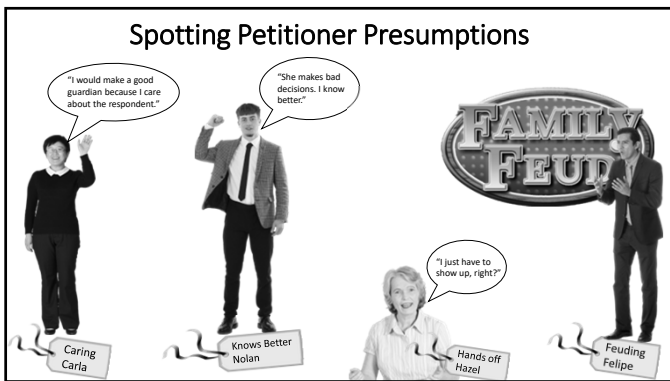
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### Common Presumptions by Clerks

- “The only option is guardianship.”
  - Promote alternatives, whenever appropriate.
- “Whenever a person has this diagnosis, they are incompetent.”
- “DSS is always the best possible guardian.”
- “The GAL is neutral.”

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### Respondent Presumptions

“No one cares what I think. I have no say in what happens to me.”

“No one can tell me what to do or where to live. I’m going home tomorrow.”

“I can do everything myself; I do not need any help.”



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### Reflecting on our own presumptions as GAL

“This is the petitioner’s show.”  
→ Passive player

“Hi, I’m your GAL; nice to meet you. So, who would be the best guardian for you?”  
→ Don’t skip the first step and assume incompetency.

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**Reflecting on our own presumptions**

"This is the petitioner's show."  
→ Passive player

"Hi, I'm your GAL; nice to meet you. So, who would be the best guardian for you?"  
→ Don't skip the first step and assume incompetency.

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**Reflecting on our own presumptions as GALS**

"This is the petitioner's show."  
→ Passive player

"Hi, I'm your GAL; nice to meet you. So, who would be the best guardian for you?"  
→ Don't skip the first step and assume incompetency.

"People either need a guardian or they don't."  
→ All or nothing

**Other presumptions? Either that you are careful to avoid as GAL or that you have seen others make?**

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Questions & Comments:  
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**Email me to join the listserv for adult GAL attorneys!**

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