

A GUIDE TO THE

# Elder Justice Center

Persons over the age of 60 are the fastest growing segment of the population in the United States. As the older adult population continues to increase nationally, the older population in Florida grows at an even faster rate. More than 178,350 people in Hillsborough County are over the age of 60. While a number of these older adults are Florida natives, with families who are able to care for them, many retire to the state and are without family to assist them as they become more vulnerable. The Elder Justice Center was established, to ensure that elderly citizens in Hillsborough County have fair and reasonable access to the courts.

## Program Funding

The Elder Justice Center is funded by the Florida State Courts System and by Hillsborough County.

## Elder Justice Center

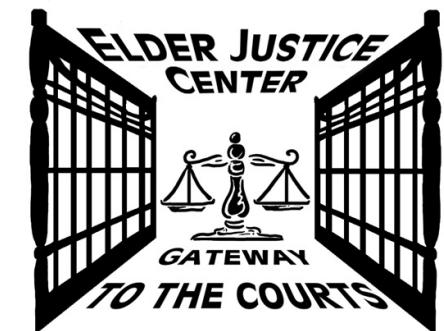
Fourth Floor  
George Edgecomb Couthouse  
Room 481

800 E. Twiggs Street  
Tampa, Florida



## Office Hours

Monday through Friday  
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Phone: (813) 276-2726  
Fax: (813) 301-3701



Administrative Office of the  
13th Judicial Circuit

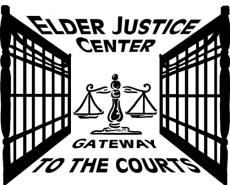


Administrative Office of the Courts  
13th Judicial Circuit

# Elder Justice Center



13th Judicial Circuit.



## Mission

The Mission of the Elder Justice Center (EJC) is to remove the barriers and enhance communication between seniors, the court system, and legal and social services.



## Eligibility

The EJC serves seniors 60 years and older who are residents of Hillsborough County.

## About us

The Elder Justice Center was established to create a court program that is elder friendly and easily accessible to seniors involved in legal proceedings within the

## Designated Facility for Elders

- Resource Library that provides information for services available in Hillsborough County
- Access to enhanced communication devices for the hearing impaired
- Individual and group courthouse orientations and tours, available upon request



## Public Education

The EJC offers public education lectures on a variety of topics. Some topics include:

- Elder abuse, neglect and exploitation
- Avoiding victimization and revictimization by way of fraud
- Information on establishing advance directives and guardianship

## Referrals

The Elder Justice Center coordinates access to existing agencies that provide services to seniors.

## Victim Advocacy

Court counselors provide the following services to clients:

- Referrals to crisis counseling, legal and social service agencies
- Assistance with filing petitions for restraining orders against domestic and repeat violence and provide short term case management for these cases

## Guardianship Case Management

Guardianship court counselors provide the following services:

- Provide case management review for over 3,000 established guardianship cases in Hillsborough County
- Serve as court monitors on guardianship cases to ensure the rights of the ward are protected
- Provide ongoing education for family and professional guardians