




### Top Local Stories


Dirty Dining: Inverrary Resort report will turn your stomach
(/web/wplg/news/restaurant-


Man believed to have robbed Fort Lauderdale bank twice this week
(/web/wplg/news/man-


No-fly zone of MIA enforces drones
(/web/wplg,

reports/dirty-dining-inverrary-resort-report-will-
believed-to-have-robbed-fort-lauderdale-bank-
zone-within-mile-of-mia-enforc

**NEW JUICY FRUIT GUM WITH STARBURST FLAVORS**

CLICK FOR SWEET VIDEO >

CALL CHRISTINA ([HTTP://WWW.LOCAL10.COM/CONSUMER](http://www.local10.com/consumer))

# Gov. Rick Scott signs bill to protect seniors who require professional guardians

## Scott signs 24 other bills Thursday

By Judy Reich (<http://www.local10.com/author/judyreich>)

Posted: 3:54 PM, March 11, 2016  
Updated: 3:54 PM, March 11, 2016

f 0    t 0    ↻ 0

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** - Gov. Rick Scott signed 25 new bills into law Thursday. One sponsored by Senator Nancy Detert provides regulatory authority over professional guardians appointed by the courts to oversee the lives of incapacitated senior citizens.

Local 10 News recently reported a story about a Century Village man who felt his father's guardian was not acting in his best interest.

**More Call Christina Headlines**

Local 10 News viewer claims guardian not acting in best interest of father (</web/wplg/consumer/call-christina/local-10-news-viewer-claims-guardian-not-acting-in-best-interest-of-father>)

James Vassallo's father Albert was declared incapacitated by a Palm Beach County court. That's when professional guardian, Elizabeth Savitt, stepped in to manage the assets of Albert Vassallo after the court cited family discord.

James Vassallo has appealed the court's ruling removing him as trustee of his father's estate.

"The bill is another step forward in our ongoing struggle to expose this horrific racket and bring stakeholders to justice," South Florida activist Dr. Sam Sugar said.

Sugar's group, Americans Against Abusive Probate Guardianship, represents thousands nationwide who say their loved ones are in abusive guardianships.

The new law creates an Office of Public and Professional Guardianship and requires the office to standardize practices and create rules for professional guardians. It also gives enforcement power to include revocation of a guardian's registration.

"This may going forward bring some degree of protection to prospective wards. It may make it harder to abuse the next ward. But for those of us who have suffered from this abusive racket, there is no hope that we will ever be made whole emotionally, physical or financially," Sugar said.

Scott signed a bill last year that imposed criminal penalties for guardians exploiting or abusing seniors in guardianship cases.

Local 10 News reported that James Vassallo questioned the billing invoices from his father's guardian and her attorneys. Vassallo also questioned how his father's money was being spent to care for him.

"I think it's great that Gov. Scott signed the bill. The next bill they should cap the amount that a lawyer and guardian can charge a ward," Vassallo said.

In response to Local 10 News' report, Palm Beach County Chief Judge Jeffrey Colbath instituted changes addressing concerns of how professional guardians are selected. Included in the changers are the following:

- In-house training for probate Judges and court staff;
- The establishment of a Guardianship Wheel which will provide for random assignment of professional guardians to cases;
- Standardization of bill practices for Guardians and Attorneys; and
- Recusal of the current South County Judges from Ms. Savitt's cases.

"Not a day goes by where I don't get a phone call from a family member desperately to find help for the crisis they are in with their loved one," Sugar said.

*Copyright 2016 by WPLG Local10.com - All rights reserved.*

## Promoted Stories



### How To: Fix Crepey Skin

Beverly Hills MD  
(<http://beverlyhills-md.com/cmd.php?ad=774530>)



### For Those Who Need the Space – 10 Most Affordable 3-Row Cars

Kelley Blue Book  
(<http://www.kbb.com/?psid=99988&siomid=Outbrain|||||2000011644&RCMID=2000011944>)



### 23 Historic Photos Taken Moments Before Tragedy Struck

LifeDaily.com  
([http://www.lifedaily.com/23-powerful-pictures-taken-before-tragedy-struck/#utm\\_medium=referral&utm\\_source=Outbrain&utm\\_campaign=OB-TragedyPhotos](http://www.lifedaily.com/23-powerful-pictures-taken-before-tragedy-struck/#utm_medium=referral&utm_source=Outbrain&utm_campaign=OB-TragedyPhotos))



### 30 Foods To Never Eat

Prevention Pulse  
([http://preventionpulse.com/weight-loss/30-healthy-foods-that-are-making-you-fat/?utm\\_medium=Discovery&utm\\_source=C](http://preventionpulse.com/weight-loss/30-healthy-foods-that-are-making-you-fat/?utm_medium=Discovery&utm_source=C))

## More Promoted Stories

**7 Serious Lack of Vitamin D Warning Signs** Reinventing Aging  
([http://www.reinventingaging.org/general-health/vitamin-d-deficiency-7-signs-your-levels-are-too-low/?utm\\_source=Outbrain%20-%20DT%20-%20Vitamin%20D%20Deficiency:%207%20Signs%20Your%20Levels%20Are%20Too%20Low&utm\\_medium=1849033](http://www.reinventingaging.org/general-health/vitamin-d-deficiency-7-signs-your-levels-are-too-low/?utm_source=Outbrain%20-%20DT%20-%20Vitamin%20D%20Deficiency:%207%20Signs%20Your%20Levels%20Are%20Too%20Low&utm_medium=1849033))

**32 Pets Who Didn't Expect You To Be Back Home So Soon.** GuiltyFix  
([http://guiltyfix.com/guilty-pets-caught/?as=2030010001013&utm\\_term=1849033](http://guiltyfix.com/guilty-pets-caught/?as=2030010001013&utm_term=1849033))

**The Results Are in: Here Are the 12 Cars With the Best Resale Value in 2015** Kelley Blue Book (<http://www.kbb.com/?psid=99988&siomid=outbrain|||||2000011397&rcmid=2000011397>)

**The Most Revealing Red Carpet Looks of All Time** TVGuide.com  
(<http://www.tvguide.com/galleries/revealing-red-carpet-1083645/?ftag=ACQf8354&vndid=1849033>)

**Doctor: Brilliant New Way to Tighten a "Saggy Neck" [Watch Video]** Live

## More From Local10

**Hurricanes advance to ACC Tournament semifinals**  
(<http://www.local10.com/web/wplg/sports/college-basketball/hurricanes-basketball/canes-advance-to-acc-touranment-semifinals>)

**Boat crashes into Rickenbacker Causeway after losing anchor**  
(<http://www.local10.com/web/wplg/news/boat-crashes-into-rickenbacker-causeway-after-losing-anchor>)

**Mother of suspect in fatal shooting says she doesn't know where son got gun from** (<http://www.local10.com/video/mother-of-suspect-in-fatal-shooting-says-she-doesnt-know-where-son-got-gun-from>)

**1 injured after car crashes into tree in Doral**  
(<http://www.local10.com/web/wplg/traffic/1-injured-after-car-crashes-into-tree-in-doral>)

**Miami Police to conduct DUI checkpoint Thursday**  
(<http://www.local10.com/traffic/miami-police-to-conduct-dui->)

Healthy Journal (<http://t1.tkzio.com/111ce38f-dce2-4804-b250-5a1c22c6056a?>

checkpoint-thursday)

img=5&site=1849033&ad=46781300&title=Doctor%3A+Brilliant+New+Way+to+Tighten+a+%22Saggy+

Recommended by

(<http://www.outbrain.com/what-is/default/en>)

Login



Write a comment

0 Comments

Subscribe

RSS (<http://comments.us1.gigya.com/comments/rss/7102421/story>

[comments/http%3A%2F%2Fwww.local10.com%2Fweb%2Fwplg%2Fconsumer%2Fcall-christina%2Fgov-rick-scott-signs-bill-to-protect-seniors-who-require-professional-guardians\)](http://comments.us1.gigya.com/comments/rss/7102421/story)

### NEWS HEADLINES

Girl says survival from sinking car is 'God's



miracle'



Dad shown in video beating son has criminal record



Dirty Dining: Inverrary Resort report will turn your stomach



Miami Beach police arrest spring breakers



Broward sheriff's deputy charged with battery on female inmate



Lexus of Kendall  
Lexus of West Kendall

COMMAND  
PERFORMANCE | LUXURY | VALUE

NEW 2016 LEXUS  
CT 200h  
Lease From  
**\$289**  
per mo plus tax

First payment included. See dealer for details.

## Trending



Miami Beach police arrest spring breakers

(<http://www.local10.com/news/miami-beach-police-arrests-spring-breakers>)



\$28 million awarded to parents of dead baby found inside box outside North Miami...

(<http://www.local10.com/news/28-million-awarded-to-parents-of-dead-baby-found-inside-box-outside-north-miami-gas-station>)



Hialeah mar beating 7-year-old after-school program

(<http://www.local10.com/news/accused-of-beating-7-year-old-school-care-program>)

## Get Alerts

Want the latest news and weather updates?

Enter your email here



Contact (<http://www.local10.com/contact>) About (<http://www.local10.com/inside-wplg>)

**f** (<https://www.facebook.com/WPLGLocal10>) **t** (<https://twitter.com/WPLGLocal10>)

© 2016 Local10.com is published by BH Media Group, a division of Berkshire Hathaway.