

HAMMOND
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ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELOR AT LAW

NEWS RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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REGARDING:

Guardian ad Litem and Master in Chancery
Hearings Shut Down by Attorney General

For Immediate Release

**TEXAS ATTORNEY GENERAL SHUTS DOWN INVESTIGATION INTO
ABUSE OF ELDERLY, DISABLED, AND MENTALLY ILL IN EL PASO**

El Paso – This morning Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott obtained a mandamus (please see attached) from the Eighth Court of Appeals, which shut down the Master in Chancery hearings ongoing in the El Paso County Probate Court. This unprecedented action to squelch evidence and testimony, and its negative implications for adults at risk, are the focus of a **news conference this afternoon at 2:00 p.m. in the El Paso County Commissioners Court, 3rd Floor of the El Paso County Courthouse.**

El Paso Attorney Terry W. Hammond elicited a full day of startling testimony yesterday, June 21st, about recent cases where mentally challenged and elderly adults have been either placed in boarding houses, unlicensed foster homes, motels, or minimally licensed facilities in which the qualifications of providers is in question, and poses personal and financial harm to residents. The hearing was to have continued through tomorrow. Additionally, Hammond explored the role of federal, state, and local agencies and MHMR in regulating and directing clients to these locations.

Mr. Hammond was appointed by Judge Higgs as Guardian ad Litem and Master in Chancery for twenty-seven (27) indigent clients with diagnoses of schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major depression, and dementia whose Social Security funds have been used by designated payees to fund placement in these facilities. For more information, please call Stephanie Townsend Allala at 915.534.7000.