



Research and Consulting by Spectrum Institute ([Spanish](#))



Under contract with Hulme Resources Inc., Spectrum Institute is providing research and consulting services to the Alternatives to Guardianship Project. Over 40% of the fees for these services are being donated back to the project.

The services are being provided by Thomas F. Coleman, legal director of Spectrum Institute. Coleman has years of [experience](#) involving research, education, and advocacy on disability rights, guardianship reform, and alternatives to guardianship such as supported decision-making.

Coleman was a keynote [presenter](#) at the 4th Annual Educational Summit sponsored by The Arc of Missouri in 2017. He spoke on “Administering Trauma-Informed Justice in Guardianship Proceedings.” Later that year, Coleman produced a report for Spectrum Institute with [recommendations](#) for guardianship reform directed to the Missouri Legislature, Supreme Court, State Bar, and Developmental Disabilities Council to improve the administration of justice in guardianship proceedings. Recommendations included ways to ensure that alternatives to guardianship are explored and used when feasible.

Spectrum Institute filed a [complaint](#) with the Missouri Supreme Court in 2017 bringing to the court’s attention ways in which the state’s guardianship system is out of compliance with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1974. Follow-up communications about this problem were sent to the court in 2018 and 2019.

Spectrum Institute has produced a wide range of [publications](#) related to guardianship reform, including improving the capacity assessment process and the use of alternatives such as supported decision-making. Webinars and [presentations](#) also have been made on these topics at conferences and meetings in Missouri, Florida, Georgia, and California as well as the World Congress on Adult Guardianship in South Korea. Outreach on guardianship reform has been made to supreme courts and state bar associations in more than a dozen states, as well as to federal officials and agencies.

Spectrum Institute is pleased to participate in the Alternatives to Guardianship Project by providing research and consulting services to enhance the project’s effectiveness.

<https://alternativestoguardianship.com/>