

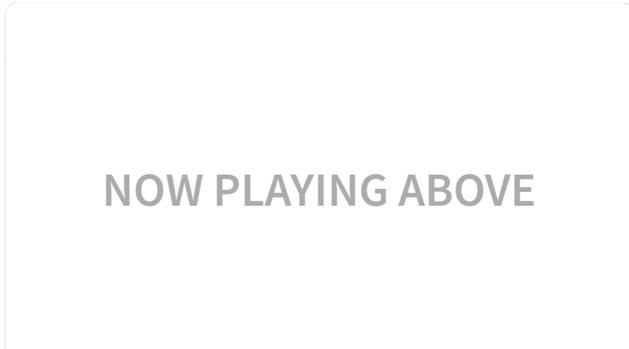


# The Stolen Years: Audit finds Florida's guardianship program not doing enough to protect seniors

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# INVESTIGATES Audit finds Florida's guardianship program not doing enough to protect seniors



By **ActionNewsJax.com News Staff**

April 28, 2025 at 5:42 pm EDT

The Stolen Years: Audit finds Florida's guardianship program not doing enough to protect seniors

# from 'malfeasance'

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m News Staff**

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Retirees move to Florida to live out their golden years in the Sunshine State, but for those who become vulnerable in their old age, there are serious concerns.

An Action News Jax investigation uncovered that the Department of Elder Affairs' guardianship program has come under serious criticism for a lack of oversight, leaving the people they are supposed to protect unguarded.

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Guardianship is a legal process where a judge takes away a person's rights and appoints someone to manage their finances and other aspects of their lives. That person is often a family member, but sometimes it's a professional, and a scathing state audit found the office created to make sure guardians are doing their job is failing those it's supposed to protect.

That is exactly what Rey Contreras said happened to his family.

"My stepfather's wishes were denied and revoked," he told Action News Jax's Emily Turner.

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Contreras' stendad was a huge part of his life but once the court placed him in the care of a

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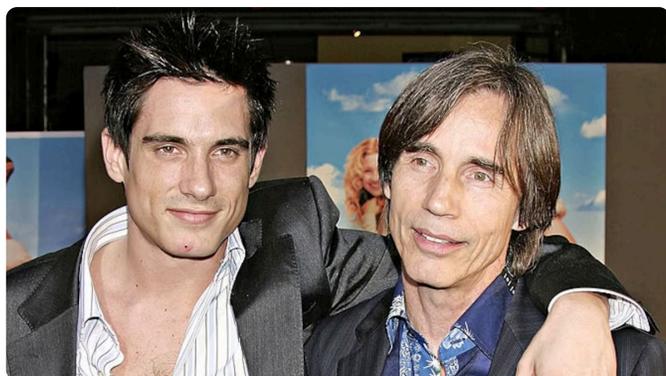
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