

## **Department of Elder Affairs**

Constitutionally designated by Florida voters in 1988 to “serve as the primary state agency” for administering human services programs for the elderly, the Department of Elder Affairs was legislatively created in 1991 to serve Florida’s elders by helping them maintain self-sufficiency and self-determination. With more than 23 percent of Florida’s population over age 60, and that number likely to increase dramatically in the next 5 years, Florida’s future is linked to the well-being of its elder population.

In furtherance of its mission, the Department of Elder Affairs partners with public and private organizations and agencies to combat ageism, create public awareness, and advocate on behalf of elders and their needs. The Department also acts as a clearinghouse for Florida’s elders and their families seeking information and assistance on issues particular to this population, such as determining the need and appropriate level for long term care.

With most of its programs privatized, the Department of Elder Affairs is one of the smallest state executive agencies, with approximately 360 employees. The DOEA programs are largely administered through 11 Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) and 52 Community Care for the Elderly (CCE) lead agencies. The primary goal of these agencies is volunteerism on the local level to ensure assistance to the elderly.

**Contact Information:** Department of Elder Affairs  
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Information@elderaffairs.org

**Hours of Operation:** 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Agency Secretary:** Carole Green

A former legislator representing parts of Lee and Collier counties, Secretary Green has 30 years of experience in health care and public service. She was appointed by Governor Jeb Bush in March 2005, after having previously served as the Director of the Office of Long-term Care Policy.

**Deputy Secretary:** Ashley Stacell

Also appointed in March 2005, Deputy Secretary Stacell oversees the administrative functions of the Department and also has responsibility for two important Department programs: the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program and SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders).

**General Counsel:** Barbara Crosier

Ms. Crosier is responsible for the legal work of the Department, much of which is related to the contracts that the Department enters into with its statewide agency partners in providing services to Florida's elders.

The General Counsel's office also administers two programs, the Statewide Public Guardianship Office and the Elder Rights Unit. Ms. Crosier's office does this with just one full-time and one-part time senior attorney in addition to herself, making hers probably the smallest legal staff of any executive agency.

**Agency Clerk/Public Records Requests:** Demetria Ross

In addition to filing Department documents, the Agency Clerk also is responsible for the logging and tracking of public records requests.

**Communications Director:** Amy Lynch

Ms. Lynch has just taken over this position, which is responsible for overseeing the distribution of information about the Department and educating the public about its programs and services. She can be reached at [lyncha@elderaffairs.org](mailto:lyncha@elderaffairs.org).

**APA Interaction:** The legal work of the Department of Elder Affairs is largely overseeing and administering contracts that channel federal and state dollars to Area Agencies on Aging in 11 districts around the state. The Department does not assist individual elders with legal matters. Therefore, there is little interaction with the Administrative Procedure Act. The Department is currently in litigation over whether the Area Agencies on Aging are subject to the APA for competitive procurement purposes. The Department is taking the position that Area Agencies on Aging are not "agencies" subject to the APA for any purpose, including for competitive procurement.