

FACT SHEET ON DEMENTIA FOR PROBATE JUDGES AND ATTORNEYS

- **10% citizens over the age of 65 have dementia and most will hide their symptoms.**
- **All dementia patients deserve one careful evaluation to find treatable causes of confusion.**
- **20% of forgetful elders have a treatable disease (e.g., depression or vitamin deficiency).**
 - **There is no cure for dementia.**
- **Alzheimer's is the most common cause of dementia and usually kills the patient in 7-10 years.**
- **Some dementia patients have delusions and make unwarranted accusations about caregivers.**
- **Medications and illnesses can make dementia patients more confused.**
 - **Almost all dementia patients eventually need a guardian.**
 - **Dementia patients are vulnerable to physical and financial exploitation, abuse or neglect.**
 - **Mental health centers can screen for dementia.**
- **Difficult competency evaluations can be referred to the Competency Evaluation Center at UAB – 205/934-2334.**

For more information, call the Dementia Education & Training Program at 1-800-457-5679