

# 13 Things to Know About Guardianship



"Protected Person" means an adult with a guardian.



An adult becomes a protected person after a court hearing finds that the adult lacks capacity to make or communicate decisions & needs help.



The adult has the right to appear at the court hearing and contest the appointment of a guardian.



Guardians are assigned specific powers & authority by the court in an "Order Appointing Guardian."



"Guardians of the Person" are typically given powers to make medical, housing, & minor financial decisions.



"Guardians of the Estate" are also known as "Conservators" and are typically given powers to pay bills, receive income, protect assets & prepare budgets.



Protected persons needing prescribed psychotropic medications may have an appointed "Mental Health Treatment Guardian."



Guardians are decision-makers, not caretakers, typically. They help arrange for the services needed by the protected person rather than performing the services.



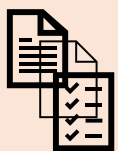
Guardians are advised to follow a code of conduct with ethical standards published & taught by The National Guardianship Association.



Person-centered decision-making & planning is a well-accepted practice for effective guardianship so that each protected person maintains a dignified life in line with the person's culture, values, goals & needs.



Guardians are expected to include protected persons in decision-making & avoid restricting the legal freedoms of the protected person.



Guardians must complete & file reports with the court after first 90 days, every year, at end of guardianship, or if the protected person dies. Missing reports may lead to fines/review by a Court Visitor.



Over-stepping authority, abuse, or neglect may lead to complaints the Court Visitor will respond to.