

Alternatives to Guardianship

Establishing a guardianship may remove considerable rights from an individual; therefore, it should only be considered after alternatives to guardianship have been proven ineffective or are unavailable.

Alternatives to guardianship may include:

- Representatives or Substitute Payees
- Case/Care Management
- Health Care Surrogacy
- Trusts
- Durable Powers of Attorney for Finance
- Durable Powers of Attorney for Health Care
- Living Wills
- Community Advocacy Systems
- Joint Checking Accounts
- Community Agencies/Services

Sponsors

Second Judicial District Court
State of Nevada
County of Washoe
Honorable Judge David Hardy
Honorable Judge Egan Walker
Honorable Judge Frances Doherty

Washoe County Public Guardian,
Susan DeBoer
and Staff



*Trainings are offered monthly at **no cost** to the participant.*

A certificate of completion will be provided upon attendance.

Please contact Washoe County Public Guardian for additional information or to reserve your spot in an upcoming training class.

As space is limited, reservations are required.

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A Walk Through



**A training exclusively
for Adult
Guardianships**

Adult Guardianship

Guardianship is the legal process by which a court determines that a person is incapable of making decisions about some or all areas of life. Because of certain medical conditions, intellectual disability, dementia, mental illness, or the inability to communicate, a person may not be able to take care of his or her own finances, make medical decisions, or understand the need for assistance with the activities of daily living.

The law presumes that all adults are competent to make decisions, unless proven otherwise, regardless of whether or not they have a disability.

Ideally, someone who has an important role in an individual's life would serve as guardian. Family members are often the natural choice to act as guardian. The role of guardian comes with significant legal responsibilities.

This program is designed to provide basic information about guardianship and to assist the family guardian in meeting the needs of their loved one.

Classes are not intended to substitute for qualified legal advice. Please seek legal counsel as needed.

Training Topics

Section One: Guardianship Overview

Topics include:

- ❖ Capacity/competency
- ❖ When guardianship is necessary
- ❖ Rights that might be affected
- ❖ Who is qualified to serve as guardian
- ❖ Alternatives to guardianship
- ❖ Types of guardianships
- ❖ Court etiquette

Section Two: I Am the Guardian. What Do I Do Now???

Topics include:

- ❖ Decision making
- ❖ Medical decisions/informed consent
- ❖ Placement/living decisions
- ❖ Financial management
- ❖ Payment of attorney & guardian fees
- ❖ Sale of real estate
- ❖ Actions of the guardian which require court approval
- ❖ Legal reporting requirements
- ❖ Community resources & support
- ❖ Closing guardianships
- ❖ Emotional aspects of guardianship
- ❖ Tips for guardians
- ❖ Question & answer session with guardianship professional

Upcoming Training Classes

For a schedule of upcoming training classes, please visit our website:

www.washoecounty.us/guardian