



What is guardianship?

Guardianship is a court order giving an adult the authority to make decisions or act on behalf of a person with a disability who has been deemed incompetent while taking into consideration their wants and needs. There are different types of guardianship the court can establish depending on the needs of the individual including, but not limited to guardian of person, guardian of estate, and limited guardianship.

When can guardianship be established?

It is only established for individuals over the age of 18.

What are the responsibilities of the guardian?

Guardians must follow and enforce the rules and orders of probate court.

Guardians are required to attend trainings every year for continuing education.

Guardians must complete reports for the probate court on an annual and bi-annual basis to provide the court with an update on the individual.

Guardians are also charged with seeking guidance from the court when they need assistance. Guardians are also responsible for ensuring appropriate care for the individual and advocating for them.

Are there alternatives to guardianship?

Guardianship is not always the best option for a person with a disability. The alternatives to guardianship are establishing a chosen representative who assists the person in making decisions and a financial power of attorney who assists the person with managing their financial affairs. There are also several other types of power of attorneys that can be established.



Blanchard Valley Center
The Hancock County Board of Developmental Disabilities

**For more information
regarding guardianship
please talk with your SSA.**