

Guardian & Conservator Services

Quick Facts:

- An incapacitated person is someone who, for a variety of reasons, may become incapable of making minimally adequate decisions about medical treatment or everyday life and as a result their health or safety are in jeopardy
- A guardian is an individual or organization named by the Court to act as a surrogate decision maker for an incapacitated person
- A conservator is a person appointed by the court to manage and protect the estate (money and property) of an incapacitated person
- 26% of Utahns do not have a family member or other person who could manage their medical and financial matters; 5 % do not know
- 700-1400 adult Utahns, with age-related dementia, developmental disabilities and/or serious & persistent mental illness, are incapable of making basic decisions about their health, safety and personal finances

The Office of Public Guardian is the State agency responsible for providing public guardianship and conservatorship services to incapacitated adults who do not have appropriate family or friends to assist/serve them. The primary purpose of guardianship is to assure the safety and well-being of an incapacitated adult.

A guardian is appointed by the court to make decisions for another adult (the “ward”) about their medical care, living arrangements and other matters.

A conservator is appointed by the court to make important financial decisions for an incapacitated adult.

SOME OF OUR SERVICES

- Information, referral, education and training to the community about guardianship and conservatorship
- Guardianship and conservatorship evaluations/assessments
- Guardianship/surrogate decision making for medical, housing, habilitation and other decisions on behalf of incapacitated adults
- Conservatorships for financial decisions and money management for an incapacitated adult and/or representative payee services to help incapacitated adults manage their money
- Information, referral, education and training to the community about guardianship and conservatorship

IF YOU NEED MORE INFORMATION

Utah Office of Public Guardian

801-538-8255, www.opg.utah.gov

National Guardianship Association

877-326-5992, www.guardianship.org

Disability Law Center

1-800-662-9080, www.disabilitylawcenter.org

To report abuse, neglect or exploitation of a vulnerable adult:

1-800-371-7897 or 801-264-7669

For additional information, visit www.opg.utah.gov