

Bill of Rights People under Guardianship

A bill of rights is a list of rules that protect your freedoms and choices. It helps make sure you have a say in decisions that impact your life while under guardianship.

- You have the right to be treated with dignity and respect.
- You have the right to have your personal desires, cultural practices, religious beliefs, and other preferences considered in decision-making.
- You have the right make decisions about health care and medical treatment. You have the right to have your personal beliefs respected in health care decisions.
- You have the right to have control over all aspects of life not given to the guardian by the court.
- You have the right to receive guardianship or conservatorship services that meet your specific needs.
- You have the right to petition the court to prevent or change your living situation.
- You have the right to access care, social activities, employment, and education.
- You have the right to decide on the care and placement of personal property. You have the right to object and petition the court for review, if you disagree with how your guardian is caring for or controlling your property.
- You have the right to privacy.



Bill of Rights People under Guardianship

- You have the right to communicate, visit, or interact with others. This includes:
 - Having people visit you
 - Making and answering phone calls
 - Getting letters and packages
 - Using social media and email
 - Taking part in social activities



Guardians can only put restrictions in place if they believe talking to others could hurt you physically, mentally, or financially. You have the right to petition the court to change or remove restrictions.

- You have the right to get married and have children, unless you need permission from the court.
- You have the right to choose if you want a surgery that makes it so you can't have children, or you can say you don't want it.
- You have the right to ask the court to end or make changes to the guardianship. This include asking for changes to decisions the guardian made and asking for other help you need.
- You have the right to have a lawyer with you if you need to go to court for any reason.



- You have the right to vote, unless the court says you can't.
- You have the right to make choices about how you look or what name you use, unless the court says you can't.
- You have the right to make a healthcare plan, which includes what medical treatments you want and who can make decisions for you if you can't. You can only do this if the court hasn't given a guardian powers over where you live, medical choices, or taking care of your basic needs.



Exploring My Rights

In this activity, you will practice what your rights mean to you. There will be questions for you to answer throughout the activity. Think about times when you felt respected and treated fairly. Think about how you want your rights to be respected in the future. By reflecting on these experiences, you can better understand how your rights shape your life and decisions.

For Example:

Personal Right: You have the right to privacy.

What does this look like in your life? Write or draw answer below:

Closing my bedroom door when talking on the phone.

Your Turn!

Personal Right: You have the right to be treated with dignity and respect.

What does this look like in your life? Write or draw answer below:

Exploring My Rights

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What does this look like in your life? Write or draw answer below:

Personal Right: You have the right make decisions about health care and medical treatment. You have the right to have your personal beliefs respected in health care decisions.

What does this look like in your life? Write or draw answer below:

Exploring My Rights

Personal Right: You have the right to have control over all aspects of life not given to the guardian by the court.

What does this look like in your life? Write or draw answer below:

Personal Right: You have the right to receive guardianship or conservatorship services that meet your specific needs.

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Exploring My Rights

Personal Right: You have the right to petition the court to prevent or change your living situation.

What does this look like in your life? Write or draw answer below:

Personal Right: You have the right to access care, social activities, employment, and education.

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Exploring My Rights

Personal Right: You have the right to decide on the care and placement of personal property. You have the right to object and petition the court for review, if you disagree with how your guardian is caring for or controlling your property.

What does this look like in your life? Write or draw answer below:

Personal Right: You have the right to privacy.

What does this look like in your life? Write or draw answer below:

Exploring My Rights

Personal Right: You have the right to communicate, visit, or interact with others.

This includes:

- Having people visit you
- Making and answering phone calls
- Getting letters and packages
- Using social media and email
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What does this look like in your life? Write or draw answer below:

Personal Right: You have the right to get married and have children, unless you need permission from the court.

What does this look like in your life? Write or draw answer below:

Exploring My Rights

Personal Right: You have the right to choose if you want a surgery that makes it so you can't have children, or you can say you don't want it.

What does this look like in your life? Write or draw answer below:

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What does this look like in your life? Write or draw answer below:

Exploring My Rights

Personal Right: You have the right to have a lawyer with you if you need to go to court for any reason.

What does this look like in your life? Write or draw answer below:

Personal Right: You have the right to vote, unless the court says you can't.

What does this look like in your life? Write or draw answer below:

Exploring My Rights

Personal Right: You have the right to make choices about how you look or what name you use, unless the court says you can't.

What does this look like in your life? Write or draw answer below:

Personal Right: You have the right to make a healthcare plan, which includes what medical treatments you want and who can make decisions for you if you can't. You can only do this if the court hasn't given a guardian powers over where you live, medical choices, or taking care of your basic needs.

What does this look like in your life? Write or draw answer below:

Guardianship

When a judge decides someone else should make important decisions for a person with a disability. The person a judge picks is called a guardian.

A guardian can make decisions about things like where a person lives, what doctors a person can see, and how a person can spend their money.



Supported Decision Making

Lets a person with a disability be their own guardian.

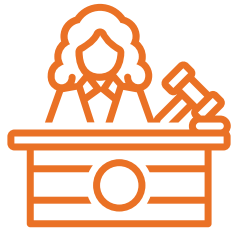
This means the person makes their own decisions but they have a team to help. This team is made up of people the person picks like family, friends, and support workers.



Petition

Asking a judge to help solve a problem or settle a disagreement.

For example, you might ask the court to change your guardian, give you more freedom, or address any problems you have with your current guardian.



Restrictions

Restrictions are rules or limits that tell you what you can or cannot do.

For example, not being allowed to go out at night or not being allowed to use the internet could be restrictions.



Dignity

Being valued as a person.

This means being listened to, treated with kindness, and having your feelings and rights respected.

