

What does a Guardian do?

Is a Guardian a Case Manager?

Making a decision or giving consent can sometimes **involve** a guardian in the search to find an option which will provide the best outcome for the person under guardianship but it is not the **responsibility** of the guardian to find the services or expertise to provide this. The guardian is not the case manager.

Is a guardian a carer?

Some guardians will be the carer of the person under guardianship for example if a spouse is appointed as guardian and is caring for the person at home. Being a carer is a separate role to a guardian even though a person may have both roles at the same time. The Public Guardian will never be the carer of a person under guardianship.

Is a guardian an expert in medicine or law?

Being a guardian is the result of a legal appointment. The actions of a guardian are bound by the Guardianship Act 1987 and a guardianship order but a guardian does not have to be a lawyer to make a decision on behalf of another person.

Sometimes a guardian will be asked to consent to medical and/or dental treatment on behalf of the person they are guardian for. This requires that the guardian ask the doctor or dentist questions about the nature and effect of the treatment, consequences, risks and alternatives. The guardian relies on the information and opinions provided by the medical experts and then weighs this information with their own knowledge of the person.

Is a guardian the person's friend?

A guardian can be the friend of the person under guardianship and usually will be if the guardian is a private guardian. If the guardian is the Public Guardian no prior relationship with the person will have existed and because of the nature of the role, friendship is not a goal.

A guardian is a guardian

A guardian is a person who is over the age of 18 and if a family member or friend, a person who is compatible with the person under guardianship, who does not have a conflict between the interests of the person under guardianship and their own, who has the best interests of the person at heart and who is willing and able to be the guardian.

The Public Guardian is a public official appointed when there is significant conflict or ethical considerations and where no private person is able or willing to be the guardian. Staff in the Office of the Public Guardian may have a professional background in the area of disability but this may not necessarily relate to the decision or issues at hand.

The role of a guardian is to make a lifestyle decision or provide medical consent on behalf of a person under guardianship during the time of a guardianship order. Guardians are responsible to ensure that a decision or consent is in the best interests of the person.

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