

HOW TO FIND THE PRIVATE GUARDIAN SUPPORT UNIT

Guardians can contact the Private Guardian Support Unit, Monday to Friday between 9am and 5pm. Information can also be obtained from our website.

The Private Guardian Support Unit

Telephone:

(02) 8688 6060

Fax:

(02) 8688 9797

Toll free (for country callers):

1800 451 510

Email:

informationsupport@opg.nsw.gov.au

Website:

www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/opg

Postal Address:

Locked Bag 5116 Parramatta 2124

Street Address:

160 Marsden St, Parramatta

The Private Guardian Support Unit is funded and staffed by the NSW Public Guardian and is a separate organisation to the Guardianship Tribunal.

An **Information and Support Service** for Guardians APPOINTED IN NSW



Public Guardian
Justice & Attorney General



If you are a person appointed under the *NSW Guardianship Act (1987)* to be the guardian of a person with a disability, you can contact the Private Guardian Support Unit for information on the role of a guardian and help in guardianship practice.

WHY CONTACT THE PRIVATE GUARDIAN SUPPORT UNIT?

If you have been appointed as a private or enduring guardian to make decisions on behalf of a family member or friend, there are things you need to be aware of which will help you in this role.

The role of guardian is different to that of carer, friend or relative. It is a legally appointed position and there are a range of legal duties involved as well as responsibilities to the person for whom you are guardian.

As a guardian you can assist the person to make decisions in lifestyle areas that will be in his or her best interest. You may assist the person get the services and care they need and that may protect them from abuse, neglect or exploitation.

Sometimes guardians find this takes a lot of time, effort and thought to ensure that the best possible decision is made on behalf of the person. Many guardians have family members or friends who can support them in their role as guardian. The Private Guardian Support Unit is also there to provide support and information using the knowledge and experience of the NSW Public Guardian.

WHAT TYPE OF INFORMATION AND SUPPORT CAN WE PROVIDE?

The Private Guardian Support Unit is a free and confidential service available to guardians. We do not supervise the actions or decisions of guardians.

We provide information on:

- > The rights and responsibilities a guardian has to the person under guardianship
- > the *NSW Guardianship Act (1987)*
- > best practice in decision making
- > resources and services for people with disabilities

The Unit can also provide practical support for guardians who may be making decisions in situations of conflict or dispute, where advocacy is needed or where decision making may be helped by knowledge of a range of services and options available to people with disabilities.

WHERE TO GO FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Guardians can join our mail and or email list for regular updates on guardianship through the bi-monthly newsletter ***Onguard***.

Now You're the Guardian, a comprehensive guide on the role and functions of guardians in NSW is available on request or from our website: www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/opg

LawAccess, a legal information centre can provide information on appeal mechanisms regarding decisions of the Guardianship Tribunal, the Mental Health Tribunal and review processes for decisions of the Public Guardian and the NSW Trustee and Guardian.

www.lawaccess.gov.nsw.au
Telephone: 1300 888 529

If you require this information in a more accessible format or in a different language please contact the Private Guardian Support Unit.

All personal information collected will be dealt with in accordance with the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998*.