

**Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, Inc.** 

# Guardian

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The Guardian is a quarterly newsletter published by the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources' (GWAAR) Wisconsin Guardianship Support Center (GSC).

The GSC provides information and assistance on issues related to guardianship, protective placement, advance directives, and more.

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Subscriptions to *The Guardian* are free. To subscribe, fill out our newsletter contact form.

### In This Issue:

#### Points of Interest......2

- Upcoming National Center on Law & Elder Rights Webinar—Advocating for Formerly Incarcerated Older Adults
- National Center on Law & Elder Rights Webinar—Strengthening Rights & Ensuring Accountability in Guardianship Systems and Practices (Part 2)
- Tip Sheet: Preserving Access to Utility Service
- AARP Volunteer Tax-Aide Program
- CFPB—New Resource on Identifying and Reporting Illegal Nursing Home Debt Collection Tactics

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- Guardianship Training Update—Training Now Available Online
- Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Releases Report on Recovering from Elder Financial Exploitation
- Additional Free COVID-19 Tests Available by Mail
- Urinary Tract Infections May Change Behaviors
- Office of the Register in Probate: Unique Court Officials Supporting Mental Health and Emergency Cases

#### 

- *Racine County v. P.B.* "right to be present" at guardianship hearings
- Brown County v. S.F.L.—CBRF protective placement or supported apartment

#### Helpline Highlights.....11

- I am the agent for a power of attorney and there are no alternates. Can I add someone to take over in case I am not able to act?
- My relative created a supported decision-making agreement and named me as a supporter. What access do I have to records so I can help support them?
- I am a newly appointed guardian for a relative who owns a vehicle, but can no longer drive it. Can I sell the vehicle or give it to another family member to use?







#### Upcoming National Center on Law & Elder Rights Webinar – Advocating for Formerly Incarcerated Older Adults

On January 26 at 1 pm, NCLER is presenting a free Zoom webinar on issues facing older adults reentering the community following incarceration, including barriers in accessing benefits, health care, housing, and other resources. The training will address strategies for accessing housing, understanding Medicaid and Medicare limitations for older adults in reentry, and navigating common Social Security eligibility issues. Register in advance at the <u>NCLER website</u>.

# National Center on Law & Elder Rights Webinar – Strengthening Rights & Ensuring Accountability in Guardianship Systems and Practices (Part 2)

Presented in October, the second part in this webinar series on issues and potential improvements to guardianship systems discussed the benefits of legal counsel in guardianship proceedings, the role of the attorney, person-centered representation, and legal strategies for advocating for less restrictive alternatives. While the webinar is primarily intended for attorneys, it may be of interest to anyone with an interest in the guardianship process and the rights of proposed wards. NCLER has made a <u>recording</u> of the webinar available, as well as the <u>PowerPoint</u>.

#### Tip Sheet: Preserving Access to Utility Service

The National Center on Law & Elder Rights has a <u>tip sheet</u> available to assist families, advocates, and guardians who may have concerns about utility disconnection, including information on protection for individuals with serious illness whose health, safety, and well-being could be at risk if service is discontinued, resources for assistance with utilities, and links for assistance with other services, such as the Affordable Connectivity Program for broadband service and the Lifeline program for phone and/or data service. For energy assistance in Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Division of Energy, Housing, and Community Resources also has <u>information and assistance applications available</u>.

#### AARP Volunteer Tax-Aide Program

The AARP provides free tax preparation assistance for Wisconsin taxpayers 60 and older in cooperation with the IRS. Appointments are available at a number of different locations around the state. Services are intended for simple tax returns and cannot serve taxpayers with complex situations. The United Way website includes <u>a search by zip code</u> to locate nearby programs, including contact information to schedule an appointment.

#### CFPB – New Resource on Identifying and Reporting Illegal Nursing Home Debt Collection Tactics

In December, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau released a <u>new resource</u> to help consumers, caregivers, and supporting professionals learn about their rights, identify red flags in nursing home contracts, and learn about how to report and address issues that arise with state and federal resources. The CFPB also has resources to help family and friends of people living in facilities prevent elder financial abuse. These guides are available in both <u>English</u> and <u>Spanish</u>.



# News

#### Guardianship Training Update – Training Now Available Online

Have you been hearing about training requirements for new guardians? Wondering where to find the training? Wondering what topics are covered?

UW-Green Bay has produced a statewide self-paced curriculum that will be available 24/7 online. The training website is now available here: <u>https://</u><u>www.uwgb.edu/guardianship-training/</u>. While the training is intended for new guardians, it is available to anyone who would like to take it. UW-Green Bay plans to make a version of the training available on paper, and both Spanish and Hmong versions are anticipated.

The training requirement applies to all new petitions for guardianship filed as of January 1, 2023, as well as petitions to appoint a standby or successor guardian filed on or after January 1. It does not apply to corporate guardians or guardians of minor children under the age of 18. For volunteers or family members who anticipate serving as guardian for more than one ward, the training must only be completed once. Before the final hearing, proposed guardians must complete a new court form, GN-3135: Confirmation of Completion of Guardian Training Program. In addition, a number of other court forms have been updated, including the Petition for Guardianship, Statement of Acts & Consent to Serve, and petitions to appoint standby and successor guardians. Check the forms list on the courts website to make sure you're using the most up-todate forms.

For guardianship of the person, training topics will include:

- The duties and required responsibilities of a guardian under the law and limits of a guardian's decision-making authority.
- Alternatives to guardianship, including support-



ed decision-making agreements and powers of attorney.

- Rights retained by a ward.
- Best practices for a guardian to solicit and understand the wishes and preferences of a ward, involving a ward in decision making, and taking a ward's wishes and preferences into account in decisions made by the guardian.
- Restoration of a ward's rights and the process for removal of guardianship.
- Future planning and identification of a potential standby or successor guardian.
- Resources and technical support for guardians.

For guardians of the estate, topics will include inventory and accounting requirements in addition to the duties and responsibilities of a guardian and limits of decision-making authority.

For questions about the training program or training support, please contact UW-Green Bay's program specialists at 920-465-2315 or <u>guardian@uwgb.edu</u>. □

#### Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Releases Report on Recovering from Elder Financial Exploitation

Elder financial exploitation robs millions of older adults of their money and property. Despite the frequency and magnitude of the monetary losses in elder financial exploitation, little is known about how, and when older adults recover the money they have lost. In September 2022, the CFPB released a <u>report</u> that provides the first comprehensive description of the experience of how older adults recover from elder financial exploitation. The report presents a framework for financial recovery derived from insights from CFPB's one-on-one interviews with older adults, caregivers, and professionals as well as existing literature across a range of disciplines that the CFPB examined to better understand recovery from financial exploitation.  $\Box$ 



## News



#### Additional Free COVID-19 Tests Available by Mail By the GWAAR Legal Services Team (for reprint)

Every U.S. household is eligible to order an additional four free at-home COVID-19 tests from the federal government at <u>COVIDtests.gov</u> or by calling 1-800-232-0233. The tests will arrive by mail.

These tests are in addition to the free at-home tests available to Wisconsin residents through the Say Yes! COVID test program. All Wisconsin households are eligible to place an order every month for one free test kit that contains five at-home COVID-19 tests. To place an order, please go to <u>https://</u> sayyescovidhometest.org/.

In addition, you may be able to receive free at-home over-the-counter COVID-19 tests through your health insurance plan. If you have health insurance through an employer, or if you have a plan through the Affordable Care Act's Marketplace, each person on your plan can get eight tests per month. People who are on Medicare can also receive eight free over-the-counter COVID-19 tests each month. Members enrolled in BadgerCare Plus and full-benefit Wisconsin Medicaid programs are also eligible for OTC test kits from Medicaid-enrolled pharmacies using their ForwardHealth ID card with no copay. Please contact your insurance provider for more information.  $\Box$ 

#### Urinary Tract Infections May Change Behaviors By the GWAAR Legal Services Team (for reprint)

It is easy to dismiss forgetfulness, confusion, irritability, or withdrawal as just typical signs of aging or dementia. However, most people would be surprised to learn that urinary tract infections or (UTIs) can create these behaviors, as well. If an older person has a sudden and unexplained change in behavior such as increased confusion, agitation, or withdrawal, it may actually be due to a UTI. A UTI is an infection in any part of the urinary system such as the kidneys, ureters, bladder, and urethra. Women are more commonly affected by UTIs than men. Most UTIs can be treated with antibiotics and do not create any further problems. Complications are uncommon, but they can be serious and include kidney damage and blood poisoning, which can be fatal.

Urinary tract infections don't always cause signs and symptoms, but when they do, they may include a strong, persistent urge to urinate; burning sensation when urinating; passing frequent, small amounts of urine; urine that appears cloudy; urine that appears red, bright pink or brown (a sign of blood in the urine); strong smelling urine; and pelvic pain in women.

Older adults, however, may experience different symptoms compared to young or middle-aged adults, and those symptoms can be much more severe. Further complicating matters is that older adults with cognitive impairments or dementia may not realize there is an issue or be able to communicate their UTI symptoms to caregivers. Even more, common symptoms like burning and urgency to urinate may not occur in older individuals at all. Sometimes, the only sign that an older adult has a UTI is the sudden and unusual behavior changes, confusion, or delirium.

For these reasons, it's important for older adults and caregivers to know the signs and symptoms of UTIs so they can be recognized and treated quickly. Diagnosing a UTI in an otherwise healthy older adult can be difficult to begin with, but this task is even more challenging when someone has dementia or other cognitive impairments. Hopefully, a family caregiver or other individual who regularly interacts with the older adult can monitor their cognitive function and behavior to determine what is "normal" and detect anomalies to the best of their ability.



# News



#### (continued from page 4)

Otherwise, an older adult may be presumed to have permanent symptoms of dementia when, in fact, they are experiencing temporary cognitive issues due to a UTI. A key distinction in determining whether delirium, agitation or confusion is caused by a UTI is whether treatment with antibiotics results in any improvement in mental status.

Remember, older adults are often managing multiple health conditions and taking several different medications. The best UTI treatment and prevention strategy for each individual may vary, and should be discussed at length with one's medical providers.

Resources:

Alzheimer's Association Article

Alzheimer's Society UK Article

AgingCare Article

Office of the Register in Probate: Unique Court Officials Supporting Mental Health and Emergency Cases By Jennifer A. Moeller, Door County Register in Probate and President of the Wisconsin Register in Probate Association

The Office of the Register in Probate is one of many county offices involved with individuals in mental health crises and in need of emergency services. The Register oversees court cases for mental health commitments, alcohol commitments, and drug commitments for minors and adults. The Register manages guardianship cases for children and cases involving vulnerable adults alleged to be in need of guardianship or protective placement. And, Registers oversee the probate of estates, wills, and trusts. The judges of each county appoint the Register in Probate. Wisconsin Statutes specify duties and powers concerning case record maintenance, collection of fees, and judicial administration, but, the daily work goes well beyond the statutory duties and powers. Registers and their staff coordinate complex cases with attorneys, social workers, medical facilities, accountants, bankers, and the individuals involved with these cases who do not always have legal representation.

Families in crisis contact the probate office regarding court processes. Such crises include a person suffering from a mental illness causing harm to themselves or another; someone experiencing cognitive challenges that leave them vulnerable to harm; or the recent death of a loved one. We approach all cases with sensitivity, aware of the stress and grieving that comes with these cases.

#### COMMITMENTS

When it is alleged that an individual has a treatable mental illness and is a danger to themselves or others, an Emergency Detention form may be filed by law enforcement. The person is typically detained at a hospital or mental health facility. Beyond filing the commitment court case, the Register's office works with circuit court, corporation counsel, human services, the public defender, and the facility where the individual is detained to schedule a probable cause hearing within 72 hours, ensuring the individual's rights, and arranging for participation of the individual in the hearing.

If the person attends court in person, the sheriff transports with handcuffs and restraints. This could further traumatize the person, who may feel they are being punished for a mental health challenge. Thus, Registers may work with facilities to offer video or audio appearance.

(continued on page 6)





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When an individual is detained after the probable cause hearing and objects to detention for treatment, another hearing is held within 14 days. Independent examiners are appointed. The Register may be in contact with the doctors for the appointment and often work with them regarding obtaining documents, filing their report, and arranging for court testimony.

If committed to the supervision of the department of health and human services for oversight of mental health treatment and services, the person cannot possess or own a firearm. The Register sends the appropriate notice to the Department of Justice. Initial commitments are for six months and up to one year periods thereafter. When the commitment ends, the right to possess a firearm is not automatically restored. An individual may petition the court to restore firearm rights at any time. If granted, the Register would update the Department of Justice.

#### GUARDIANSHIP

A guardianship action is a court procedure to appoint a "guardian" to make healthcare and/or financial decisions for an incompetent person, the "Ward". The Register's role in guardianship is similar to that of commitment cases: individuals with health or cognitive challenges, worried loved ones, a court process involving attorneys, social workers, medical facilities, and the potential restriction of rights. The guardianship process and hearings can vary based on the unique needs of each person which can make the case more complicated for all involved and thus, more stressful.

Guardians may be a corporate guardian or an individual, such as a family member or volunteer. The guardian has a great deal to learn that may involve protectively placing a loved one in a nursing facility or other placement. It is time consuming to investigate and hire services, assist in addressing health needs and daily activities for the loved one, keep their finances safe, and learn the job of a guardian. Guardians contact Registers daily about the guardianship work that requires an Inventory to be filed with the probate office as well as annual reports and accounts. Registers review the reports and accounts, following up as needed to be sure the interests of the ward are protected and that guardianship laws are being followed.

#### SUMMARY

The role of the Register in Probate goes beyond the court file. Registers are the primary court contact for wards, persons under commitment, their families, and other interested persons in probate and trust matters. We provide general guidance in court procedures, and direction to other community resources while maintaining confidentiality.

For more information on the role of the Register in Probate, visit <u>www.wripa.org</u>.



Title: Racine County v. P.B. Court: Court of Appeals, District II Date: November 30, 2022 Citation: <u>2022 WI App 62</u>

#### **Case Summary**

This case deals with procedural due process questions and whether the "right to be present" at guardianship hearings requires the individual to be given the opportunity to be *physically* present, as opposed to participating via video or phone. Although P.B. participated in her hearings through Zoom, she argued that because she was not given the option to appear in person and the guardian *ad litem* had not waived her presence, the hearing did not provide her with full due process. The Court of Appeals agreed, vacating the decision of the lower court and remanding for a hearing where P.B. can be physically present if she chooses.

One additional note: in-person proceedings were suspended for a number of months due to the Covid -19 pandemic. The final hearing in this case took place after those orders ended.

#### **Case Details**

In early May 2021, Racine County filed guardianship and protective placement petitions for P.B. The Court granted temporary guardianship and placement and set final hearings to take place several weeks later by Zoom. The court appointed a guardian *ad litem*, who informed P.B. of her right to be physically present and determined that she could attend the hearing in court. The GAL's report (filed after the hearing) did not waive her attendance.

P.B. attended the hearing by Zoom, although she lost video partway through and was thereafter only able to participate by phone. P.B.'s counsel participated from another location. At the end of the hearing, the Court found that P.B. was in need of guardianship and protective placement and appointed her daughter as guardian.

Following the hearing, P.B. filed a motion requesting to have the orders vacated since she had not been permitted to attend the hearing in person. Her motion also argued that the technical difficulties violated the standards for video hearings. The Court denied the motion, noting that the provisions in Chapters 54 and 55 requiring the petitioner to ensure the proposed ward "attends the hearing" did not mention physical presence. The Court also found that despite the technical difficulties, P.B. had been able to "meaningfully attend" and noted that no party had objected to continuing after her video cut out. After reviewing the statutes on the use of videoconferencing in certain types of proceedings, including guardianship and placement hearings, the Court determined that those statutes did provide the right to be physically present, but that P.B. had waived that right by not objecting to attendance via Zoom.

The Court of Appeals began its analysis with statutory provisions that address the proposed ward's right to attend the hearing. Wis. Stat. § 54.42 provides the proposed the right to "be present" at the hearing and the right to have guardianship hearings conducted in a location and manner that is accessible to the individual. Wis. Stat. § 54.44(4) requires that the petitioner "ensure that the proposed ward...attends the hearing" unless their attendance is waived by the GAL. One of the factors a GAL can consider is the ability of the individual to "meaningfully participate." This section also provides the individual, their counsel, the GAL, or other interested persons with the right to request that the hearing be held in a place where the proposed ward can attend. Wis. Stat. § 55.10 applies these same rights to protective placement proceedings. The Court also noted failure to ensure the ward's attendance, absent a valid waiver by the GAL, causes the court to lose competency to proceed.



## **Case Law**



#### (continued from page 7)

The Court noted that the sections requiring the individual's attendance do not mention physical presence. They do, however, all contain provisions to ensure that the proceeding is accessible, including moving the hearing to a different location if the person cannot otherwise "attend" because of where they reside or because of transportation or accessibility concerns. The Court also noted that while Wis. Stat. § 885.60(2)(a) allows protective placement proceedings to be held via videoconferencing technology, this statute also states that a respondent in a protective placement proceeding is "entitled to be physically present in the courtroom at all... dispositional hearings." The Court cites the comment on the 2008 Wisconsin Supreme Court rule that permitted videoconferencing to note that the section also "protects...litigants' rights to adequate representation by counsel by eliminating the potential problems that might arise where counsel and litigants are either physically separated, or counsel are with litigants at remote locations and not present in court." One of the issues in this case was that P.B. and her counsel were not in the same place, making it difficult or impossible for counsel to consult with her about her wishes during the proceeding.

Because P.B. did not object to the Zoom hearing, the County argued that she waived her right to attend in person. However, the Court of Appeals disagreed, finding that the provisions of Wis. Stat. § 885.60(2) on which the County relied were not applicable to P.B.'s attendance – rather, they applied to her right to object to *other witnesses* appearing by video. Further, the Court noted that it is the GAL's role to determine whether the individual's right to attend should be waived, and that the GAL did not waive that right on P.B.'s behalf.

Finally, the County argued that the hearing had been conducted during a global pandemic, during which the Supreme Court of Wisconsin issued orders suspending most in-person proceedings in favor of videoconferencing. The Court of Appeals here clarified that the Supreme Court of Wisconsin had terminated those orders effective May 21, 2021 – 12 days before the final hearing in this case.

Title: Brown County v. S.F.L. Court: Court of Appeals, District III Date: December 6, 2022 Citation: 2021AP975

#### **Case Summary**

In December 2020, following S.F.L.'s annual protective placement review, the circuit court ordered that S.F.L.'s protective placement at a community-based residential facility continue based on his ongoing medical needs and self-neglect due to serious and persistent mental illness. S.F.L. appealed, arguing that he would be able to meet his care needs with a supported apartment. The Court of Appeals affirmed the lower court's order continuing the placement.

#### **Case Details**

S.F.L., aka "Stanley," has been under guardianship since 2012 and protective placement since 2013. Stanley has been diagnosed with schizoaffective disorder and also has diabetes that requires blood monitoring and ongoing care. In 2011 and 2012, Stanley developed infections in his legs, at least one of which occurred while he was in a supported apartment setting. At the time, he was not taking medications to treat his mental illness, and as a result, neglected caring for his wounds to the point where both legs had to be amputated below the knee. When the guardianship and protective placement were put into place, Stanley was initially placed into a locked setting due to safety concerns; however, over time he has been able to move to less restrictive environments and at the time of appeal was placed in a community-based residential facility.

(continued on page 9)



## **Case Law**



#### (continued from page 8)

At the *Watts* hearing, Stanley expressed his desire to live in his own apartment. He testified that he could do many tasks on his own, including transferring from his wheelchair, cooking for himself, monitoring his own blood sugar, and taking his medication.

In contrast, the psychiatrist and county worker who interviewed Stanley both testified that he has struggled with some of his daily needs, has expressed that he does not want to take medications, and likely would not be able to take care of himself in a less restrictive setting. Dr. Allen, the psychiatrist, noted that Stanley's amputations resulted in a need for assistance with a lot of his daily tasks, including dressing, bathing, and transfers. He also testified to some concerns about Stanley's short-term memory and attention which could make tasks like cooking difficult, although he noted that Stanley could potentially do some simple meal preparation. He concluded that Stanley needed twenty-four-hour supervision in a setting with monitored egress and on-site nursing care to assist with monitoring blood sugar, medications, and arranging for medical appointments and transportation. Sheila DeGrand, the Brown County worker, also testified that Stanley would likely stop taking his medications and that in the past, that had resulted in the loss of his lower legs due to self-neglect.

On appeal, Stanley argued that the County failed to meet its burden of proof that he continued to meet the standards for protective placement, specifically that he had a primary need for residential care and custody. Wis. Stat. § 55.08(1)(a). He pointed to Dr. Allen's testimony that he was "doing well," participating in activities, and managing his emotions and interactions adequately.

The Court of Appeals disagreed, noting first that its limited role as a reviewing court allows it to search

the record for evidence to support the circuit court's findings of fact, not for evidence to support findings the court could have reached but did not. *See Fond du Lac County v. J.G.S., Jr.*, 159 Wis. 2d 685, 687-88, 465 N.W.2d 227 (Ct. App. 1990); *Noble v. Noble*, 2005 WI App 227, ¶15, 287 Wis. 2d 699, 706 N.W.2d 166. The Court of Appeals noted that while Dr. Allen had testified that Stanley was doing well, his testimony had also included concerns about his short-term memory, attention, and ability to be alone for any length of time based on his physical limitations and medical needs. The Court concluded that both witnesses' testimony supported the circuit court's finding that Stanley continued to be in need of residential care and custody.

Stanley also argued that the circuit court failed to make a finding regarding his incompetency. Stanley compared the Watts review process to a recommitment proceeding under Chapter 51, which requires the court to make specific factual findings about the individual's dangerousness. Langlade County v. D.J.W., 2020 WI 41, ¶43, 391 Wis. 2d 231, 924 N.W.2d 277. The Court of Appeals agreed that a specific finding with regard to incompetency is required, but found that the circuit court had done so in its written order, which used the standard court form to continue protective placement. The Court of Appeals urged circuit courts to make more detailed findings on the record, however, since there are "important liberty interests at stake" in protective placement orders. See D.J.W., 2020 WI 41, ¶43. The Court also noted that specific factual findings will clarify issues raised on appeal, particularly when the appeal is based on sufficiency of the evidence.

Stanley also argued that the County failed to prove that Stanley was so incapable of providing for his own care or custody as to create a substantial risk of harm to himself. He argued that the County relied on his decade-old history of amputation without additional recent evidence.

(Continued on page 10)





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The Court of Appeals disagreed, again pointing to the circuit court's acceptance of Dr. Allen's testimony that Stanley required assistance with daily living and medications. DeGrand, the County worker, also testified that Stanley had decompensated following a change in medications two years previous. In short, the Court found that rather than rely solely on Stanley's history from 2011 and 2012, the County relied on the fact that he could fall into the same health pitfalls in 2021 because he would likely stop taking medications, decompensate, and neglect his diabetes and other health needs.

Finally, Stanley also argued that the CBRF was not the least restrictive environment that could meet his needs. The circuit court agreed with Dr. Allen and DeGrand that less restrictive environments would not meet his need, both because he needs ongoing medical care and because support services likely would not ensure Stanley would take his medications. The Court of Appeals found that the circuit court's findings of fact supported its conclusions and affirmed the order continuing protective placement.

#### What is the Guardianship Support Center able to help with?

The GSC is a neutral statewide informational helpline for anyone throughout the state. We can provide information on topics such as Powers of Attorney, Guardianship, and Protective Placement. The GSC is unable to provide information on minor guardianships, wills, trusts, property division or family law. The GSC is also unable to give legal advice or specific direction on completing court forms such as the inventory and annual accounting. The GSC does not have direct involvement in cases nor are we able to provide legal representation.

#### What are some other free or low-cost legal resources?

Other resources include the American Bar Association's Free Legal Answers <u>website</u> where members of the public can ask volunteer attorneys legal questions. The State Bar of Wisconsin also offers a Modest Means Program for people with lower income levels. The legal services are not free but are offered at a reduced rate. Income qualifications must be met to qualify. For more information, visit the state bar's <u>website</u> or call **800-362-9082**.

#### Interested in Receiving The Guardian?

Do you want more information about guardianship, POAs and related issues?

Signing up is easy with a link on our website: <u>Guardian Newsletter Sign-Up</u>.

You can also subscribe by emailing your name, email address, and organization to guardian@gwaar.org.





# I am the agent for a power of attorney and there are no alternates. Can I add someone to take over in case I am not able to act?

It depends on whether the power of attorney is a health care POA or a financial POA, and may also depend on the language in the document itself. Per Wisconsin's health care POA statutes, both the primary and alternate agents are "an individual designated by the principal." *See* Wis. Stat. § 155.01(4). The statutes do not provide any method for a health care agent to designate an alternate or name their own successor.

In contrast, the financial POA statutes do allow the principal to grant authority to their agent or someone else they trust to name a successor if the primary agent is unable or unwilling to act. The document must clearly provide this authority to the agent or other trusted person, however; if the document itself does not provide this authority, the agent may not name their own successor. Any successor agents, whether named by the principal or the agent or another person, have the same authority as the primary unless the document says otherwise. See Wis. Stat. § 244.11(2).

# My relative created a supported decision-making agreement and named me as a supporter. What access do I have to records so I can help support them?

Generally, a supporter may assist with accessing or obtaining information that is relevant to decisions the document authorizes them to help with. There are two limitations. First, while a supporter may speak with health care providers, insurers, etc. to gather information for health care decisions, the individual must sign a release of information before the supporter may access any care or treatment records or view protected health information. Second, the individual must sign a release of information before the supporter can access or obtain any information on education records that are subject to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). See <u>Wis. Stat. § 52.16</u> for more information.

# I am a newly appointed guardian for a relative who owns a vehicle, but can no longer drive it. Can I sell the vehicle or give it to another family member to use?

You can sell the vehicle and it typically won't require court permission to do so. Note, however, that the vehicle must be sold for fair market value, meaning the price it would reasonably sell for on the open market based on its age, mileage, and overall condition. Giving a vehicle away or selling it at a discount would potentially count as gifting, which requires court permission before the guardian can take the action. The court could require the guardian to pay back the estate or impose other sanctions, including removing the guardian if necessary.

