

The Office of the Public Guardian promotes, speaks for, and protects the rights and interests of people with disabilities and acts as the guardian of people with disabilities when appointed by the guardianship and administration board.

What you need to know about Guardianship

Office of the Public Guardian

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What is a Guardian?

A Guardian makes decisions for you that are in your best interests.

Your guardian will make decisions for you in the areas set out in the guardianship order. If you do not understand what this means or have not yet received a copy of this order, just speak to your guardian.

How will my Guardian make decisions?

When asked to make a decision on your behalf, your Guardian may talk to you about what you would like. They may also talk to people who know you, such as your family or your doctor.

A Guardian must act in your best interests, and take into account your wishes. A Guardian's job is to encourage and assist you to make reasonable judgements for yourself, and to help protect you from neglect, abuse and exploitation, and act as your advocate. This does not always mean your Guardian will agree with you.

Your guardian will act with respect, integrity, open-mindedness and will try to understand your individual needs.

Did you know?

If you are unhappy with the Order the Board has made for you, you can ask the Board to tell you why they made it. This needs to be done within 21 days. You can call the Board on (03) 6165 7500 or write to them and ask for reasons for their decision at: PO Box 825, Hobart, Tas 7001. We can also help you with this if you ask us.

You can also ask the Board if they will review your order, especially if your circumstances change or you feel you no longer need a guardian.

If you are unhappy with a decision your Guardian makes, first speak to your Guardian about why they made the decision. You can ask your Guardian to write down the reasons for making a decision. If you are still unhappy, you may speak to the Public Guardian, Kim Barker. You can call her on: (03) 6165 3444.

If you need more help:

If you need someone to help you write to the Board or speak to your Guardian, you can ask a friend or a family member to talk to them for you or with you. You might also like to ask an advocate to help you, such as Advocacy Tasmania or Speak Out Advocacy. If you have other complaints you can contact the Ombudsman, the Health Care Complaints Commissioner or the Anti Discrimination Commissioner. If you have special needs around communication let us know.

