

Annual Report to the  
Court

Notify Court of Change  
of Address

Obtain Court Approval  
for Move to More  
Restrictive Setting

Obtain Court Approval  
for Certain Medical  
Decisions

*If you have any  
questions about being  
a guardian, call the  
Probate Court that  
appointed you.*

You may also get  
information from

<http://www.ddas.vermont.gov/ddas-units/units-opg/opg-default>

[www.vermontjudiciary.org/GTC/Probate/adultguardianship.aspx](http://www.vermontjudiciary.org/GTC/Probate/adultguardianship.aspx)

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**Developmental Disabilities  
Services Division**


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# How to be a Good Guardian

State of Vermont  
Agency of Human  
Services

Department of  
Disabilities, Aging and  
Independent Living

## A Good Guardian...

### Should

Call and visit often  
Return calls  
Visit if the person is hospitalized  
Listen to the person's thoughts and desires  
Help make decisions  
Treat the person as an adult  
Respect his/her privacy

### Should NOT

Have a conflict of interest  
Make decisions without consulting the person  
Be disrespectful  
Make decisions where the Court has not given power  
Treat the person as a child

## A Good Guardian Helps Ensure that the Person Is

### Safe

In a safe house  
**With** safe people who treat him/her right  
**With** appropriate clothing  
**With** a good support system

### Healthy

**Has** good food  
**Has** needed equipment: glasses, adaptive technology, etc.  
**Has** a good doctor & dentist  
**Gets** regular check ups  
**Isn't** taking unnecessary medications  
**Side** effects of medication are monitored  
**Gets** prompt, appropriate, quality hospital care  
**Helps** make choices about own medical treatment

### Not cheated

The person's money isn't stolen  
**He/She** isn't over charged  
**Loans** are repaid  
**Rental** agreements are fair  
**Deposit** is returned when moving  
**People** don't take his/her belongings without compensation  
**Work** is paid

## A Good Guardian Helps the Person

### Get and Keep Rights

Find a good lawyer, if needed  
**Receive** mail, use the phone and see family as desired  
**Be** listened to at ISA or IEP meetings  
**Have** choices  
**Get** services and benefits that the person is entitled to  
**Vote**  
**Have** privacy

### Make own decisions

**Help** the person follow his/her dreams  
**Be** more independent  
**Find** people to listen to desires  
**Find** people to help take the necessary steps  
**Believe** in the person's gifts and talents  
**Learn** to make choices & decisions independently  
**Know** how to appeal if dissatisfied with guardian