How to be a Good Guardian

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

You may also get information from:

http://www.vermontjudiciary.org/GTC/Adult Guardianship.aspx

Developmental Disabilities Services Division
Office of Public Guardian
81 River St Suit 208
Montpelier, VT 05602
Phone: 802-828-2143
Fax: 802-828-0243
Jackie Rogers, Director

www.ddas.vermont.gov/ddas-units/opg/opg-default.aspx

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

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## A Good Guardian Helps Ensure that the Person Is

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Safe</th>
<th>Healthy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In a safe house</td>
<td>Has good food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With safe people who treat him/her right</td>
<td>Has needed equipment: glasses, adaptive technology, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With appropriate clothing</td>
<td>Has a good doctor &amp; dentist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With a good support system</td>
<td>Gets regular check ups</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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

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## A Good Guardian Helps the Person

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Get and Keep Rights</th>
<th>Make own decisions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Find a good lawyer, if needed</td>
<td>Help the person follow his/her dreams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receive mail, use the phone and see family as desired</td>
<td>Be more independent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Be listened to at ISA or IEP meetings</td>
<td>Find people to listen to desires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have choices</td>
<td>Find people to help take the necessary steps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Get services and benefits that the person is entitled to</td>
<td>Believe in the person’s gifts and talents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vote</td>
<td>Learn to make choices &amp; decisions independently</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have privacy</td>
<td>Know how to appeal if dissatisfied with guardian</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>