



Government
of South Australia

Office of the Public Advocate

What is the Office of the Public Advocate?

Easy Read fact sheet

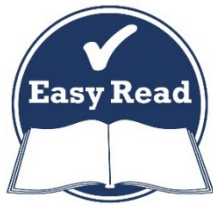


How to use this fact sheet



The Office of the Public Advocate (OPA) wrote this fact sheet.

When you see the word 'we', it means OPA.



We wrote this fact sheet in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Not bold
Bold

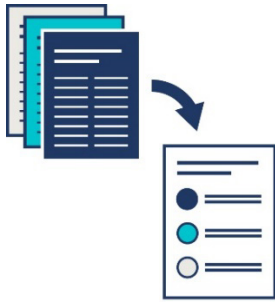
We wrote some important words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



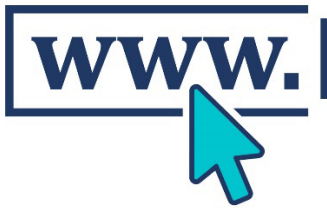
We explain what these words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 12.



This Easy Read fact sheet is a summary of another fact sheet.

This means it only includes the most important ideas.



You can find the other fact sheet on our website.

www.opa.sa.gov.au/information-service/fact-sheets



You can ask for help to read this fact sheet.

A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

Why do we have the Office of the Public Advocate?

We created the Office of the Public Advocate (OPA) for people who:

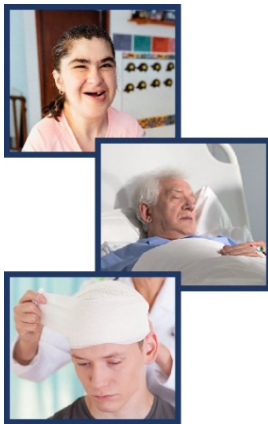


- can't make every decision on their own



- need support to make decisions.

Some people need support to make decisions because they have:



- a disability
- an illness
- an injury.



We want to help people who:

- can't make every decision on their own
- need support to make decisions.

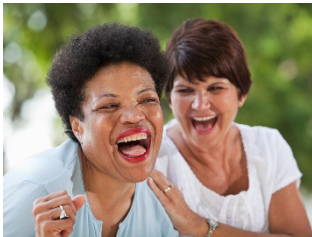
We also want to help their:



- families

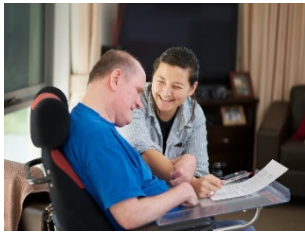


- carers



- friends.

What do we do?



We help people understand **guardianship**.



We call it guardianship when you have a **guardian**.



A guardian is someone who makes decisions for you about:

- your health
- where you live
- who you live with
- personal matters.

You might need a guardian if you:



- can't make every decision on your own



- need support to make decisions.



We help people understand what an **administrator** does.

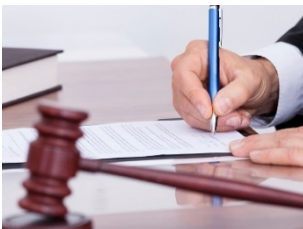
An administrator is someone who makes decisions for another person about:



- their money

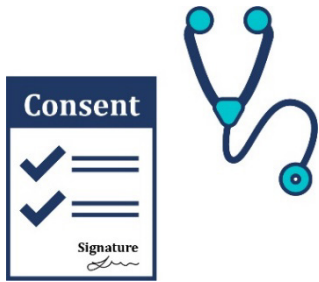


- things they own that have a lot of value

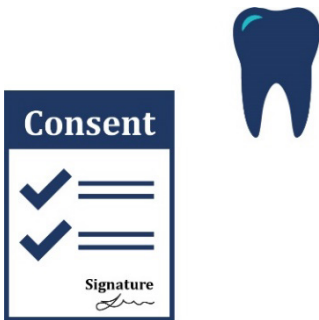


- legal matters.

We help people understand giving **consent** for:



- medical treatment



- dental treatment.



When you give your consent, you say it is okay for someone to do something.

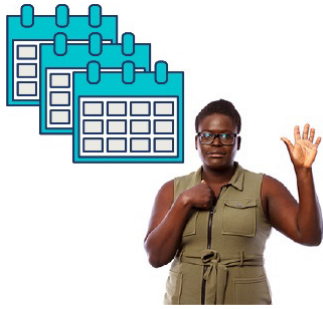


We help people understand **Advance Care Directives (ACD)**.

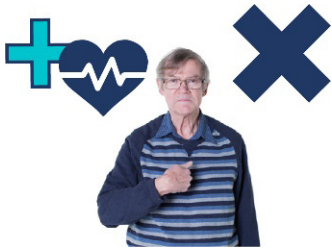


An ACD is a legal document.

When you make an ACD, you talk about what you want:



- for your future



- if you can't make a decision on your own.



Our Public Advocate can be chosen as your guardian by the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (SACAT).



SACAT help people find ways to work out:

- problems
- disagreements.



SACAT find ways that:

- are fair
- follow the law.



We can speak up for people.



We can help you have your say.



We can give you information about things like:

- where you might live
- supports and services you might use.



We can speak up for you about your **rights**.



Rights are rules about how you should be treated.

We can also speak up about changing:



- how things work for everyone



- the law.

Word list

This list explains what the **bold** words in this document mean.

Administrator



An administrator is someone who makes decisions for another person about:

- their money
- things they own that have a lot of value
- legal matters.



Advance Care Directive (ACD)

An ACD is a legal document.

When you make an ACD, you talk about what you want:

- for your future
- if you can't make a decision on your own.

Advocacy service



An advocacy service speaks up for people.

They can:

- help you have your say
- give you information and advice.



Consent

When you give your consent, you say it is okay for someone to do something.



Guardian

A guardian is someone who makes decisions for you about:

- your health
- where you live
- who you live with
- personal matters.



Guardianship

We call it guardianship when you have a guardian.



Rights

Rights are rules about how you should be treated.

Contact us



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