



Government
of South Australia

Office of the Public Advocate

Guardianship and the Public Advocate

Easy Read fact sheet

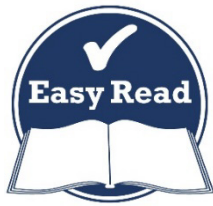


How to use this fact sheet



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

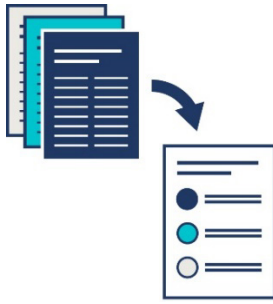
We wrote some important words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



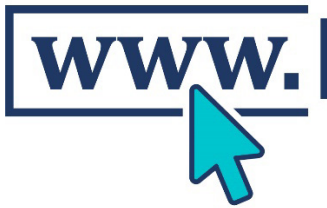
We explain what these words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 14.



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.

What is a guardian?



A **guardian** is someone who makes decisions for you about:

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



To need a guardian, you must not be able to make decisions:

- on your own
- without support.



When you have a guardian, we call it **guardianship**.



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



SACAT help people find ways to work out:

- problems
- disagreements.



SACAT find ways to fix problems that:

- are fair
- follow the law.

SACAT can decide if you need a guardian to make decisions for you about:



- where you live and who you live with



- health care or treatment you need



- who can visit you or spend time with you.

SACAT can decide if you need a guardian to make decisions for you about:



- support you need



- your learning or training.



When you have full guardianship, your guardian makes these decisions for you.

When do you need a guardian?



You need a guardian when you can't make decisions on your own.



You might not be able to make decisions because your brain or mind is affected by:

- a disability
- an illness
- an injury.

You might have:



- 1 guardian



- more than 1 guardian.

Who chooses your guardian?



You might choose your own guardian.



If you can't choose your own guardian, SACAT might make our Public Advocate your guardian.

SACAT might do this if:



- you can't choose your own guardian



- there is an important decision to make



- there's no one else.



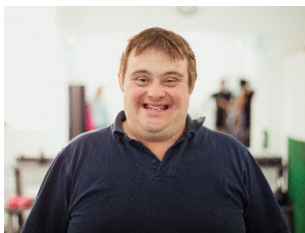
Our Public Advocate is not part of SACAT.

What will your guardian do?

Your guardian will try to find out as much as they can about:



- your life story



- what your life is like now



- your wishes



- what health care or treatment you need



- what support you need



- any risks you face or protection you need.

Your guardian will get this information by:



- talking to you



- talking to your family and friends



- meeting with people who support you



- reading reports about you.

How does a guardian make decisions?



Your guardian will think about what you need when they make decisions for you.

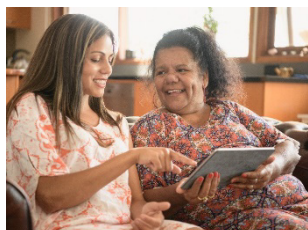


Your guardian might organise services you need.

Your guardian might speak up for you:

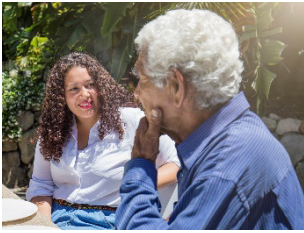


- about services you need



- to help you solve problems.

Your guardian will make decisions by:



- supporting what you want



- thinking about what you need



- following the law.



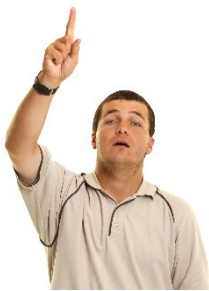
The law guardians must follow is the *Guardianship and Administration Act*.

What if you don't agree with your guardianship order?



A guardianship order:

- is a legal document
- tells someone they must have a guardian.



If you don't agree with your guardianship order, you can ask SACAT to:

- remove it
- change it
- **review** it.



When SACAT reviews something, they check to see if it:

- works well
- needs to be better.



If you don't agree with your guardian's decisions, you can ask SACAT to change the guardianship order.



SACAT might not change the guardianship order.

Word list

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

Guardian

A guardian is someone who makes decisions for you about:



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



Guardianship

When you have a guardian, we call it guardianship.



Guardianship order

A guardianship order:

- is a legal document
- tells someone they must have a guardian.



Review

When SACAT reviews something, they check to see if it:

- works well
- needs to be better.

Contact us



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www.opa.sa.gov.au



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