

Government
of South Australia

Office of the Public Advocate

Guardianship orders

Easy Read fact sheet

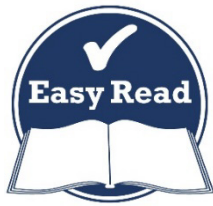


How to use this fact sheet



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

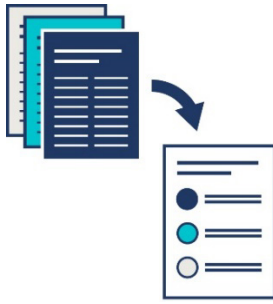
We wrote some important words in **bold**.

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



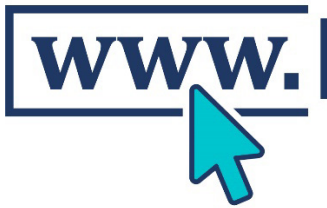
We explain what these words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 13.



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 guardianship order?



A **guardianship order**:

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



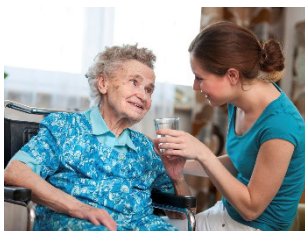
A guardian is someone who makes decisions for you about:

- 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**.

You might have:

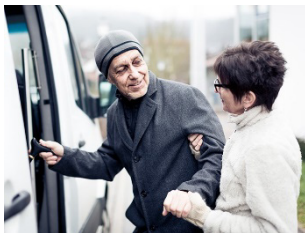


- 1 guardian



- more than 1 guardian.

Your guardian might be someone who:



- already knows you very well



- is chosen to be your guardian.

Where do you get a guardianship order?



The South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (SACAT) can make a guardianship order.



SACAT help people find ways to work out:

- problems
- disagreements.



SACAT find ways that:

- are fair
- follow the law.

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



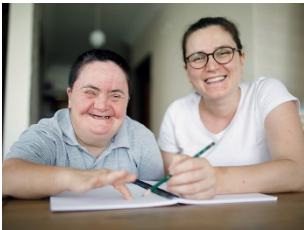
- where you live and who you live with



- health care or treatment you need



- who can visit you or spend time with you



- support you need



- your learning or training



- working or get a job.



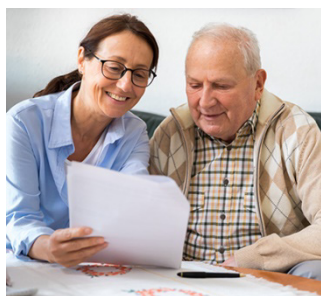
SACAT should **review** your guardianship order every 3 years.



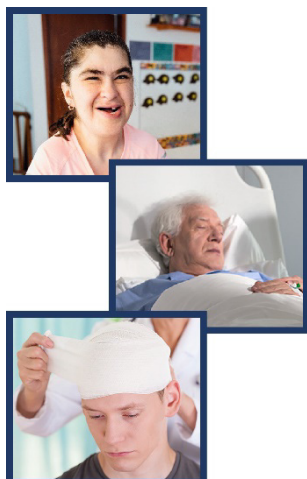
When SACAT reviews something, they check to see if it:

- works well
- needs to be better.

When do you need a guardianship order?



SACAT can make a guardianship order when you can't make decisions on your own.



Some people need support to make decisions because they have:

- a disability
- an illness
- an injury.



You might not have ways to make decisions that work well for you.



You might not agree with the decisions your family or friends help you make.



Or, you might not have family or friends around who can help you make decisions.

What will your guardian do?



Your guardian should try to find out as much as they can about you.

Your guardian should:



- talk to you



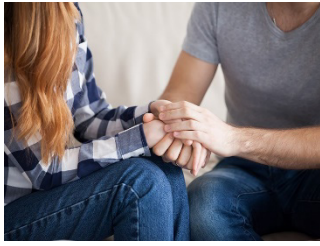
- talk to your family and friends



- meet with people who support you



- read reports about you.



Your guardian must respect what you want.



Your guardian must respect your **culture**.



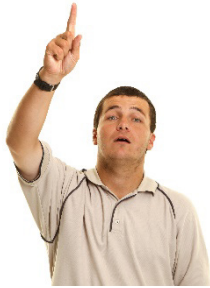
Your culture is:

- your way of life
- how you think or act now because of how you grew up
- what you believe and is important to you.



Your guardian must respect your privacy.

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



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

- remove it
- change it
- review it.



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.



Culture

Your culture is:

- your way of life
- how you think or act now because of how you grew up
- what you believe and is important to you.

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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