



## Effects of Guardianship on Personal Rights

When a person has a guardian, they lose many rights unless the judge specifically says in the Guardianship Order that the person can still have them. The following rights are not all that are lost, but these are the ones that affect the most people.

### Choosing Where to Live

The guardian has the power to admit the person to a group home, nursing home, assisted living facility, or any other type of residence.

### Making Medical Decisions

This includes all types of healthcare and treatment decisions. Some examples include medications, surgeries, Medicaid services such as in group homes and day support programs, and mental health treatment. The guardian also has the power to consent to end-of-life care, Do-Not-Resuscitate Order, and organ donation.

### Voting

If a person with a guardian is a registered voter, the registration will be revoked.

### Possessing Firearms

"Possessing" means more than just owning a gun. A person with a guardian cannot own or have access to firearms. If firearms are kept in the person's presence, such as in the home, they must be locked and the person cannot have access to the key.

### Changing State of Residence, Marital Status and Parental Rights

A guardian has control over almost every part of a person's life, but there are decisions even the guardian cannot make without the approval of the judge. A guardian has to go to court to get approval to move the person to another state, consent to termination of the person's parental rights, or to file papers for the person to get married or divorced. The guardian also needs the court's approval for any surgery which affects the person's ability to have children (sterilization).

### Driving

If the person with a guardian is already licensed to drive, their license is revoked.

### Signing Documents

A person with a guardian cannot sign any document such as a contract, lease, will, or advance directive.