

A Bill of Rights for Wards

At a minimum, vulnerable adults retain these rights even after a guardianship process:

Life

- To have a guardian to assist in decision making.
- To be protected from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
- To live in the least restrictive environment that meets their needs.
- Not be a subject in experimental research.
- To have their finances and property well-managed.
- The right to procreate.

Liberty

- To have a guardian that advocates for their best interest, and protects their rights and independence.
- To a continuous review of the necessity of the guardianship.
- To petition the court for modification of the guardianship.
- To receive notice of all proceedings relating to the guardianship.
- To privacy and confidentiality in all areas of their life including communications, friendships, bodily privacy, and personal possessions.
- To consult privately with attorneys, ombudsmen, and advocates.
- Access to all personal records including legal, medical, and financial records.
- To receive explanations on medical care and treatments available.
- Equal treatment under the law.

Pursuit of Happiness

- To be treated with respect.
- To participate in their community, and enjoy options for social, educational, and vocational activities.
- To receive information on alternatives available for care and services.
- To maintain cultural and religious values and activities.
- To explore personal relationships and sexual expression.
- To live in a safe and healthy environment.
- To have their expressed wishes given careful consideration.

To maintain control over all aspects of life that the court did not delegate to a guardian.