

§5-313. Duties of guardian for adult

1. Fiduciary. A guardian for an adult is a fiduciary. Except as otherwise limited by the court, a guardian for an adult shall make decisions regarding the support, care, education, health and welfare of the adult subject to guardianship to the extent necessitated by the adult's limitations.

[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

2. Promote self-determination. A guardian for an adult shall promote the self-determination of the adult subject to guardianship and, to the extent reasonably feasible, encourage the adult to participate in decisions, act on the adult's own behalf and develop or regain the capacity to manage the adult's personal affairs. In furtherance of this duty, the guardian shall:

A. Become or remain personally acquainted with the adult subject to guardianship and maintain sufficient contact with the adult, including through regular visitation, to know of the adult's abilities, limitations, needs, opportunities and physical and mental health; [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

B. To the extent reasonably feasible, identify the values and preferences of the adult subject to guardianship and involve the adult in decisions affecting the adult, including decisions about the adult's care, dwelling, activities and social interactions; and [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

C. Make reasonable efforts to identify and facilitate supportive relationships and services for the adult subject to guardianship. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

3. Reasonable care, diligence and prudence. A guardian for an adult at all times shall exercise reasonable care, diligence and prudence when acting on behalf of or making decisions for the adult subject to guardianship. In furtherance of this duty, the guardian shall:

A. Take reasonable care of the personal effects, pets and service or support animals of the adult subject to guardianship and bring a proceeding for a conservatorship or protective arrangement instead of conservatorship if necessary to protect the adult's property; [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

B. Expend money of the adult subject to guardianship that has been received by the guardian for the adult's current needs for support, care, education, health and welfare; [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

C. Administer assets of the adult subject to guardianship having a value of \$10,000 or less; [PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. A, §39 (AMD).]

D. Conserve any excess money of the adult subject to guardianship for the adult's future needs, but if a conservator has been appointed for the adult, the guardian shall pay the money to the conservator, at least quarterly, to be conserved for the adult's future needs; and [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

E. Monitor the quality of services, including long-term care services, provided to the adult subject to guardianship. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

[PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. A, §39 (AMD); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

4. Decision of the adult. In making a decision for an adult subject to guardianship, the guardian shall make the decision the guardian reasonably believes the adult would make if the adult were able unless doing so would unreasonably harm or endanger the welfare or personal or financial interests of the adult. To determine the decision the adult subject to guardianship would make if able, the guardian shall consider the adult's prior or current directions, preferences, opinions, values and actions, to the extent actually known or reasonably ascertainable by the guardian.

[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

5. Decision in best interest of the adult. If a guardian for an adult cannot make a decision under subsection 4 because the guardian does not know and cannot reasonably determine the decision that the adult probably would make if able, or the guardian reasonably believes the decision the adult would make would unreasonably harm or endanger the welfare or personal or financial interests of the adult, the guardian shall act in accordance with the best interest of the adult. In determining the best interest of the adult, the guardian shall consider:

A. Information received from professionals and persons that demonstrate sufficient interest in the welfare of the adult; [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

B. Other information the guardian believes the adult would have considered if the adult were able to act; and [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

C. Other factors that a reasonable person in the circumstances of the adult would consider, including consequences for others. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

6. Notice to court. A guardian for an adult immediately shall notify the court if the condition of the adult subject to guardianship has changed so that the adult is capable of exercising rights previously removed.

[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. A, §39 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).

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