



Educate. Advocate. Change.

## **The Michigan Guardianship Association**

...advocates that all other alternatives be used whenever possible and that guardianship should be used only as a last resort.

...provides education and training featuring topics of immediate concern to guardians and is offered through presentations by expert speakers, round table discussions, debates and networking. These sessions bring together people with diverse backgrounds which allows guardians to enhance their skills and knowledge at an affordable cost.

...is governed by a Board of Directors whose leadership facilitates an exceptional exchange of information to enable guardians to provide the highest level of ethical services while maintaining best practices.

## OUR MISSION

THE MISSION OF THE MICHIGAN  
GUARDIANSHIP ASSOCIATION IS TO  
PROVIDE ADVOCACY, EDUCATION,  
TRAINING AND NETWORKING  
OPPORTUNITIES FOR GUARDIANS  
AND SURROGATES AND TO PROMOTE  
THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF VALUES,  
STANDARDS AND ETHICS.

## OUR VISION

MICHIGAN GUARDIANSHIP  
ASSOCIATION IS THE PREMIER  
RESOURCE IN ADVOCATING AND  
PROMOTING THE ADVANCEMENT AND  
EDUCATION OF GUARDIANS AND  
ALTERNATIVE DECISION-MAKERS.

**MGA**

Phone: (586) 996-3456

[www.michiganguardianship.org](http://www.michiganguardianship.org)

# MICHIGAN GUARDIANSHIP ASSOCIATION

## **The Importance of Guardians In Michigan**



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## The Michigan Guardianship Association

is a non-profit organization that aspires to strengthen guardianship and related services through networking, continuing education, and tracking legislation. Members include:

- Guardians
- Conservators
- Fiduciaries
- Representative Payees
- Physicians and Hospitals
- Advocates/Powers of Attorney
- Funeral directors
- Attorneys
- Social Workers
- Bankers
- Case Managers
- Nursing Homes
- Adult Foster Care Home Owners

### Educational Opportunities

MGA conferences provide an opportunity for personal interaction with professionals and providers from all areas of guardianship. Each conference features speakers and workshops that provide valuable information specific to the field. It is an excellent opportunity to meet with people from across the state who deal with similar issues.

### Legislative Education

MGA is actively engaged in educating the Legislature on the importance of guardianship in Michigan. Our participation in bill monitoring has already resulted in a number of bills being amended to protect our wards and the profession.

### What is a Guardian?

A guardian is a person or agency appointed by a probate court and given power and responsibility to make certain decisions about the care of another individual.

A guardian might be able to decide:

- where the person lives
- what medical care the person should receive
- who will care for the person every day

If the individual has a reduced life expectancy due to advanced illness, the guardian may have the power to make an informed decision on behalf of the individual regarding receiving, continuing, discontinuing, or refusing medical treatment. A full guardian can make all decisions for the individual. A limited guardian can only make decisions for the individual that the court allows.

### What is a Conservator?

A conservator is a person or agency appointed by a probate court and given power and responsibility for the estate (financial assets and property) of an adult.

A conservator may be needed when the individual is unable to manage his or her property and financial affairs effectively.

Some of the reasons that might prevent the individual from being able to manage his or her property and financial affairs are:

- mental illness or deficiency
- physical illness or disability
- chronic use of alcohol /other intoxicants

### Becoming a Member...

Membership is available to individuals and organizations who serve as guardians or professionals that provide services which enhance the role of a guardian.

**Individual memberships** are divided into two different categories:

Family membership is defined as an individual who acts as a guardian for a family member or friend.

Professional membership is defined as a person who is court appointed for three or more non-related wards.

**Organizational membership** is available in increments of three, four, five and ten employees. The membership is listed in the organization's name and designates one individual to represent that organization.



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