

June 2020

What are my responsibilities as a guardian?

As a guardian, you must make timely decisions for the adult you represent in the areas for which you have authority in the guardianship order.

You must always:

- comply with the guardianship order and any other order of the Northern Territory Civil and Administrative Authority
- take into account the views and wishes of any interested person
- cooperate with any other guardians or appointed decision-makers
- act as an advocate for the adult in the areas for which you have authority
- make timely decisions when they are needed
- ensure that your actions and decisions are reasonable
- know the limits of your authority and act with honesty, care, skill and diligence
- use the guardianship principles to guide your decisions

What are the guardianship principles?

The guardianship principles are a set of decision-making principles that all guardians must follow. They state that a guardian must always:

- act in the adult's 'best interests', in a way that least restricts their freedom of decision and action. In determining what is in the adult's best interests, the decision maker must:
 - seek to obtain the adult's current views and wishes, as far as it is practicable to do so; and
 - take into account all relevant considerations; and
 - weigh up the relevant considerations, giving each of them the weight that the decision maker reasonably believes is appropriate in the circumstances.
- consider the adult's current and previously stated views and wishes
- support the adult to make their own decisions where feasible
- use their authority in line with the [Guardianship of Adults Act 2016](#), the guardianship order and any other order of the Northern Territory Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

Support for private guardians, what else do you need to know?

The Public Guardian provides support and guidance to private guardians to assist them in undertaking their role. To enable us to support you further, we are developing a series of surveys to evaluate our information delivery. We want to know, did we give you enough information? If not what further information would have been useful to you? In the coming weeks, you will be receiving links to our online surveys.

Thank you for your cooperation and we look forward to your feedback.