

What is the role of an Adult Guardianship Officer

The Public Guardian can be appointed by the Northern Territory Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NTCAT) as decision-maker for Represented Adults in relation to accommodation, health care and other personal matters. The Public Guardian is guardian of last resort and is only appointed when there is no one who is eligible for appointment.

The Public Guardian has a team of delegated Adult Guardianship Officers (AGO's) to work with Represented Adults and their supporters in relation to health and personal decisions. The Public Guardian does not manage finances. This is the role of the Public Trustee.

The role of a guardian is that of decision-making. A guardian does not carry out or attend to the day-to-day care needs of the Represented Adult. Where there is more than one guardian, all guardians **must** agree to the decision. The guardianship order sets out the type of decisions the guardian/s are authorised to make. Guardians can only make those types of decisions as set out in the order.

Health Care & Medical Needs	AGO	Undertaken by
Provide consent for medical treatments	✓	
Attend specialist medical appointments if appropriate	✓	
Consultation around hospital discharge plans	✓	
Routinely attend medical appointments	✗	Carer, family or service provider
Facilitate medical assessments	✗	Carer, family or service provider
Personally direct compliance with medical treatment	✗	
Attend to daily matters such as visiting, shopping, running errands and providing transport for patients in hospital	✗	Carer, family or service provider

End of life matters	AGO	Undertaken by
Advocate in relation to end of life decisions	✓	
End of life planning including ceilings of care and advance care directives where no health care decision is needed	✗	Medical professionals and family. Public Guardian to be advised
Routinely notify family of passing	✗	Carer, hospital or service provider
Make Advance Personal Plans (APP)	✗	Once a guardian is appointed only NTCAT can amend or revoke an APP

Restrictive practices	AGO	Undertaken by
Approve restrictive practices as requested by service providers	✗	Restrictive practices are currently authorised by NTCAT
Make an application under s35 of the Act for authority to use restrictive practice (anything that limits the rights or freedom of movement of a person who has a disability)	✗	Applications for the use of restrictive practice are made to NTCAT by parties requiring the use of such practice.

Financial Management	AGO	Undertaken by
The Public Guardian will not manage finances from 2020	✗	Public Trustee
Make funeral arrangements	✗	Family, executor or Public Trustee
Administration of deceased estates	✗	Public Trustee or executor of the will

Accommodation & Service Provision		
Assess accommodation options and provide consent	✓	
Approve appointment of service providers	✓	
Approve service agreements other than financial	✓	
Source accommodation, respite, discharge or release options	✗	Carer, family, support coordinator or service provider

Communication		
Communicate and consult with Represented Adults, joint guardians, family and other interested parties	✓	
Promote family and cultural connections	✓	
Routine or social visits	✗	Carer, family or service provider

General		
Support the Represented Adult to make their own decisions	✓	
Views and wishes of the Represented Adult is central to and considered in all decision making	✓	
Enforce decisions	✗	NTCAT under s35 of the Act
Provide day-to-day care or social support	✗	Carer, family or service provider
Attend to daily matters - visiting, shopping and running errands	✗	Carer, family or service provider
Provide case management services	✗	Support Coordinator
Provide legal or medical advice	✗	Lawyers, Medical Professionals

Justice System		
Advocate for a Represented Adult in court if directed by Court	✓	
Talk to lawyers if appointed for legal decisions	✓	
Appoint legal representation when authorised and required	✓	
Routinely attend police interviews and bail hearings	✗	Lawyers

Advocacy – where appointed as decision maker on the order		
NDIS funding	✓	
Appropriate service provision	✓	
Case meetings when relevant to pending decisions or monitoring of outcome of decisions	✓	
Lodge complaints on behalf of Represented Adults	✓	