

WHAT IS A GUARDIANSHIP?

Guardianships are meant to provide proper care and advocacy for vulnerable adults, while granting extended responsibility to the guardian. Because establishing a guardianship may restrict an individual's ability to exercise certain rights on his or her own, it should only be considered after alternatives to guardianship have proven ineffective or are unavailable.

The role of the guardian is to advocate for the rights of the person and help make the most of the person's abilities, with minimal restrictions as needed. A guardian may have substantial authority and duties to protect the financial's and health of the person, while balancing those duties with minimizing the negative impact on the independence of the person.

Navigating the legal system on your own can sometimes be a little intimidating. When you are trying to do it on behalf of another, it can feel even more complicated. Personally knowing or thinking that an individual is incapacitated and therefore needs a Guardianship is different than the Court stating it. An individual can only be deemed incapacitated by the Courts.

In Whatcom County, our Superior Court now has a Guardianship Facilitator. The role of the facilitator is to: help identify which forms are appropriate/ needed, review paperwork for completeness, explain court procedures & processes, and help schedule court hearings. To help with uncontested guardianships there are pre-made packets with instructions available for purchase from Whatcom Superior Court Clerk's Office. These packets are tailored to meet Whatcom County's requirements and contain all basic documents that you will need to do everything, from starting a brand new

Guardianship case to closing or moving one. If you have questions about filling out your paperwork and do not have an attorney, please contact the guardianship facilitator.

A Guardianship Facilitator cannot give legal advice nor provide legal representation. There are fees for Facilitator services: \$20; Cash, debit, or credit paid to County Clerk, 3rd prior to scheduling appointment. The \$20 fee includes first appointment and (when applicable) final or follow-up appointment. For all guardians: Washington's laws regarding guardianships have been changed, and guardians are now required to report to the Court at least every three years.

Further information is available in the Superior Court Clerk office, Guardianship Facilitator, 311 Grand Avenue; 3rd Floor, Suite 301; Bellingham, WA 98225 Phone: 360-778-5560
Hours By Appointment only

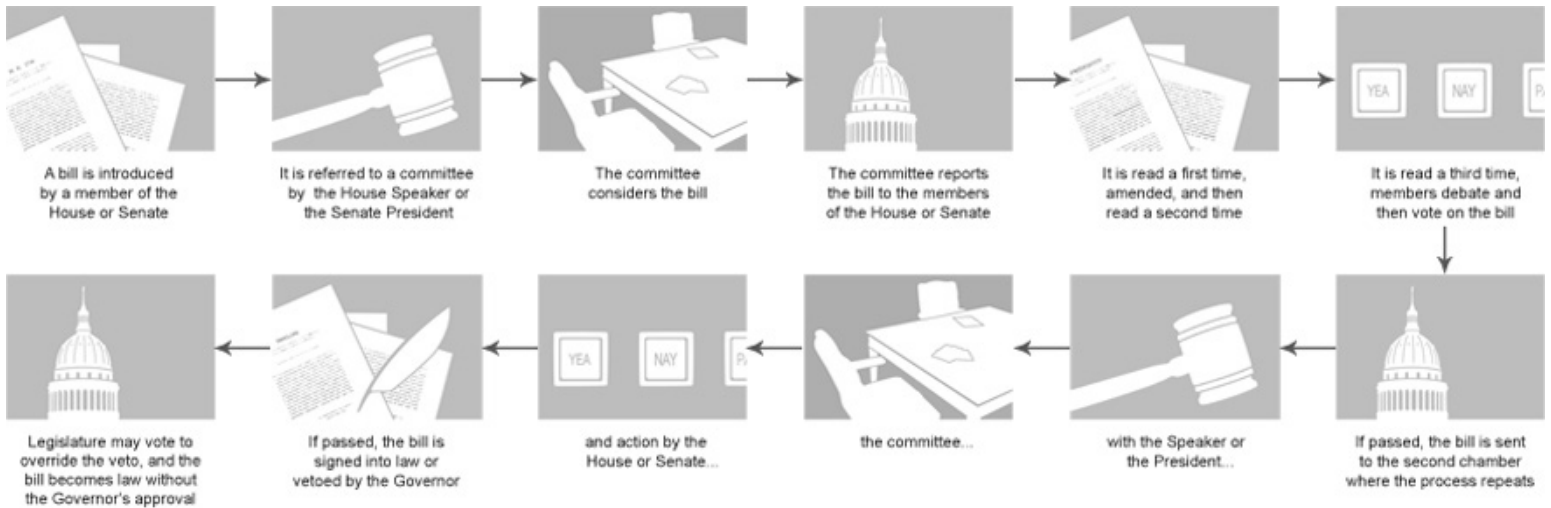


One parent wrote their own guardianship oath to their child, promising to 'communicate openly, share information, promote your choices, advocate for you whenever you need or ask, and paddle when you just want to sit back & enjoy the ride.'

How a Bill Becomes a Law

During each session of the Washington State Legislature, about 2,000 to 3,000 bills are introduced but only 10% ever make it into law. To make sure that each proposed law is a good idea, bills are put through a pretty tough review process designed to test the impact of all potential laws.

The bill process follows a series of cut-off dates for bills to make it out of each committee or die. Bills are given more time to get through their house of origin than the opposite chamber. Bills change throughout the process based on what the legislators hear from people. Make sure your voice is heard!



Upcoming Deadlines:

- **March 13:** Last day to consider bills in house of origin.
- **April 3:** Last day to read in committee reports from opposite house, except House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees.

- **April 9:** Last day to read in opposite house committee reports from House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees.
- **April 17:** Last day to consider opposite house bills.
- **April 28:** Last day allowed for regular session under state constitution.

Bills of Interest

Now that the legislative session has begun, bills are being proposed that impact individuals with disabilities and their families. Some bills of interest that are currently under consideration include:

HB 1093 & SB 5091 SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING - Safety net funding (SB 5091) and increasing the special education funding multiplier (HB 1093)

HB 1267 & SB 5089 EARLY LEARNING - Increase early learning access for children ages 30 + months with developmental delays or disabilities

HB 1185, 1186 & SB 5319 MEDICAID - Provide access to health care services for medicaid beneficiaries by applying the medicare rate (1185 & 5319) and increase income threshold for Medicaid eligibility for children (1186)

HB1065 & SB 5031 SURPRISE BILLING - Protecting consumers from charges for out-of-network health care services

HB 1199 HEALTHCARE FOR DISABILITIES - No eligibility restrictions for the buy-in program based upon a person's income or maximum age

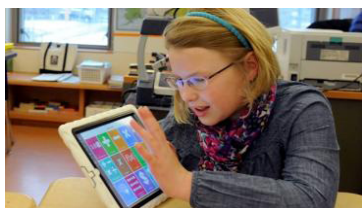
To keep up to date on the budget process and other legislation, visit: <http://arcwa.org/takeaction>.

PARENT SUPPORT MEETING

A meeting for parents and caregivers of children with developmental delays, disabilities and on going health care needs

Topic: Assistive Technology

Guest: Natalie Newman, Director of the Ershig Assistive Technology Resource Center



Monday,
February 11
7 - 8:30 pm

The Arc's Dan Godwin
Community Center

2602 McLeod Road, Bellingham

Free on-site child care is provided to those who contact us by Friday, February 8th. For special accommodations and interpreting services, please contact us 3 weeks in advance. Contact us at (360) 715-0170 ext 302 or p2p@arcwhatcom.org

The Ten Commandments For Parents of Children with Special Needs

1. Take one day at a time, and take that day positively. You don't have control over the future, but you do have some control over today.
2. Never underestimate your child's potential. Allow him/her, encourage him/her, expect him/her to develop to the best of his/her abilities.
3. Find and allow positive mentors: parents and professionals who can share with you their experience, advice and support.
4. Provide and be involved with the most appropriate educational and learning environments for your child from infancy on.
5. Keep in mind the feelings and needs of your spouse and your other children. Remind them that this child does not get more of your love just because he/she gets more of your time.
6. Answer only to your conscience: then you'll be able to answer to your child. You need not justify your actions to your friends or the public.
7. Be honest with your feelings. You can't be a super-parent 24 hours a day. Allow yourself jealousy, anger, pity, frustration, and depression in small amounts whenever necessary.
8. Be kind to yourself. Don't focus continually on what needs to be done. Remember to look at what you have accomplished.
9. Stop and smell the roses. Take advantage of the fact that you have gained a special appreciation for the little miracles in life that others take for granted.
10. Keep and use a sense of humor. Cracking up with laughter can keep you from cracking up from stress.

Excerpt from DownRight
Active Newsletter

GROWTH MINDSET & INCLUSION

INSTEAD OF THINKING...
(FIXED MINDSET)

- HE IS NOT READY FOR SCHOOL.
- WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH RESOURCES.
- SHE NEEDS TO BE PULLED OUT TO A SEPARATE SETTING.
- I NEED MORE EDUCATION ASSISTANT TIME.
- WE HAVE TRIED THIS STRATEGY BEFORE.
- I WASN'T TRAINED FOR THIS.

TRY THINKING...
(GROWTH MINDSET)

- HOW CAN WE GET SCHOOL READY FOR HIM?
- WHAT CAN I DO WITH THE RESOURCES I HAVE?
- HOW CAN I MAKE SURE SHE HAS A SENSE OF BELONGING?
- WHAT CAN HE DO INDEPENDENTLY?
- DID ANY PART OF IT WORK?
- WHERE CAN I LEARN MORE?

WHEN A FLOWER DOESN'T BLOOM YOU FIX THE ENVIRONMENT
IN WHICH IT GROWS, NOT THE FLOWER.

Alex Den Heijer



FREE DOWNLOAD: northstarpaths.com

Community Events

Autism 202: Best Practices in ASD Treatment: Applied Behavior Analysis Update

7 - 8:30pm, Thursday, February 21
Instructors: Mendy Minjarez, PhD and
Elizabeth Hatzenbuehler MS, BCBA

Autism 200 is a series of 90-minute classes for parents and caregivers of children with autism who wish to better understand autism spectrum disorder. Faculty from Seattle Children's and the University of Washington and community providers teach the classes.

Watch the free livestream at: <https://www.seattlechildrens.org/health-safety/keeping-kids-healthy/development/autism-200-series/>

Lectures are also recorded and can be viewed following the lecture. You can view all Autism 200 Series lectures from the past two years at: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLjvfRtcMhn4PB0NTW0RlvsMJGu1Csnn5s>



Washington Hands & Voices

Family Meet & Greet

For families of deaf, deaf-blind and hard of hearing children
and their friends to meet one another and have fun!

All Communications are Welcome!

Light snacks and fun activities will be provided

For questions & RSVP: Christine Griffin gbys@wahandsandvoices.org (425) 268-7087
For more information about Washington Hands & Voices www.wahandsandvoices.org



Birth to 7 years old
Saturday, Feb. 9, 2019
10am-12pm
Maritime Heritage Park Pavilion
500 W Holly St
Bellingham, WA 98225

Thank you to our co-sponsors: Whatcom Educational Credit Union, Bellingham Parks & Rec
and volunteers from the NSSLHA chapter at WWU for making these events possible

Unity Club at Western Washington University

6-7pm, Academic West, Room 205, WWU Campus

Thursday, February 7th - Valentine's Day Party
(Decorating Cookies & Card Making)
Thursday, February 21st - Game Night

The WWU Unity Club is a opportunity to expand connection with Western and meet new people. Unity Club is focused on closing the social barrier between people living with and without developmental disabilities. Contact Chloe Rosenfield at 206-909-6801 or rosenfc@wwu.edu Join the Unity Club Facebook page!

40th Annual Duncan Seminar: Ready, Steady, Go! Supporting Infants and Children with Neuromuscular Disorders

7:45am - 4:15pm, Friday, March 29,
Seattle Children's Hospital Wright Auditorium
4800 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle

The Duncan Seminar will focus on neurodevelopmental disorders and support for children with hypotonia, gross motor delay and newly diagnosed spinal muscular atrophy. Speakers include nationally recognized researchers and local clinicians with expertise and interest in the challenges facing these kids and their families. A family panel will provide in-depth coverage of this topic and perspective to the day's discussion. If you have any questions, please contact Lynna Song at lynna.song@seattlechildrens.org or at 206-987-5318

<https://www.seattlechildrens.org/globalassets/documents/healthcare-professionals/nppdi/outreach-education/duncan/duncan-brochure-2019.pdf>



S.P.I.N. Dance



6 - 8pm, Monday, February 18
Bellingham Senior Center
315 Halleck St, Bellingham

February Theme: Valentine's Day

The Max Higbee Center provides a monthly dance for individuals with disabilities. All persons age 14 and over are invited for music, dancing, and fun! For more information, call Amanda: (360) 778-7000.

Self - Advocacy Group Meeting

4:30 - 6:30pm
Thursday, February 7
The Arc of Whatcom County
2602 McLeod Road, Bellingham

Topic: Connecting Your Goals
with Your Support Team

The Arc's Self-Advocacy group helps adults with developmental disabilities become strong self-advocates. Self-advocates are people with disabilities age 16 and up who speak up for themselves and others. Visit <http://arcwhatcom.org/wp/programs/self-advocacy/>, call 360-715-0170 or email selfadvocacy@arcwhatcom.org



Saturday, February 9
Registration/Packet Pick-Up open from 9am-10:30am
Race Begins at 11am
Max Higbee Center, 1210 Bay St. #102

This community event benefits Max Higbee Center, a non-profit organization providing recreational services to teens and adults living with developmental disabilities.
<http://www.maxhigbee.org/hearty-party-5k.html>

Disco Fever

Auction and Dinner

Saturday, April 13, 2019
Bellwether Ballroom
Doors open at 5:30pm



THE 11th ANNUAL AUTISM AWARENESS AUCTION

benefitting



Tickets are \$80 each
Includes gourmet dinner and
complimentary beer and wine
Order your tickets today!
www.facesnorthwest.com
Reserve your tickets by March 30

FACES Northwest is a non-profit organization founded by parents of individuals with autism. Since 1997, FACES has operated the ONLY local summer program providing education, recreation and one-on-one support for children and young adults with autism.

Dominic's Closet

Local Mom Builds Non-profit to Provide Medical Supplies to Those in Need

Did you know that there is a local resource will deliver medical supplies to people that need them? Did you know this was all started by an amazing local mom? If you or a family member uses any sort of medical supply, you know that they can often be expensive and hard to get with insurance. You also can often be left with extra supplies that can be wasted if they go unused. One mom decided to do what she could to solve these problems for other families after she experienced the loss of her son, Dominic.

Jennifer Schouten has been a strong advocate and source of support both for her son and other families since Dominic was born 4 months prematurely in 2001. She has been a Parent to Parent Coordinator and volunteer Helping Parent as well as a former member of the Board of Directors here at The Arc. After Dominic passed away in 2015, Jennifer was left with a closet full of medical supplies that she wanted to do something meaningful with in honor of Dominic. She created *Dominic's Closet*, a non-profit 501(c)3 charity to help get medical supplies to those in need for free, regardless of income or insurance coverage.

HOW TO GET MEDICAL SUPPLIES:

The goal is to free up caregivers and families from the financial burden of chronic illnesses and developmental delays. For example, if your insurance only covers 1 item per day and you could use 2 of the same item per day, they can send you what they have free of charge. They want to make the burden of care giving lighter, and ensure better opportunities for quality of life for your loved one, family and household. Visit the Facebook page to see what items are available or to get on the wait list.

Dominic's Closet would like to give a Special Thanks to those listed below:

Wayne Kwiatkowski, realtor at Coldwell Banker Bain for contributing a percentage of real estate sales to Dominic's Closet. Dan & Nicole Givan, owners of Lakeside Marine for donating our new storage space & office in Fairhaven; Founding Board Members Craig Schouten & Kathy Blackwell; Henri Vanderhage at Vanderhage Law LLC for donating all of his time to write & file for our non-profit entity and 501(c)3 status.

TO DONATE MEDICAL SUPPLIES OR MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE MONETARY GIFT:

Dominic's Closet is accepting new, never used medical supplies, that are not expired; and like new, minimally used durable medical equipment. You may either mail your donations, or you can contact their office and be added to the wait list to donate supplies in person. To make a financial contribution, send a check made out to *Dominic's Closet* and mail to the address below. All donations will have a tax donation receipt mailed to you. Together, communities can help others in need. If you receive a physical gift from *Dominic's Closet* please know that it is being sent in love from those who care. If you donate, please know that you are reaching out and helping others in need, and your kindness is so appreciated by both *Dominic's Closet* and the recipients of gifts. ***Together, we CAN make a difference. In memory of Dominic.***

Email: dominics.closet.nonprofit@gmail.com

Mailing Address: 2950 Newmarket Street, Ste. 101-300 Bellingham, WA 98226

Website: www.facebook.com/dominics.closet.nonprofit.





Whatcom County Transition Fair

9:30am-1pm, Tuesday, March 26

Settlemyer Hall, BTC Campus Center Building
Bellingham Technical College, 3028 Lindbergh Ave

The Transition Fair is for students with developmental and other disabilities, families, educators, and interested community members. Both middle and high school age students and their families are encouraged to attend. All are welcome who are interested in thinking about the future! Come and learn about: Housing options, recreation, advocacy, employment and vocational supports, guardianship, community/tech colleges, Social Security, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA), and more.

For more information, call the Whatcom County DD Program at (360) 778-6047 or email jlee@co.whatcom.wa.us.



Community Engagement Forum

4 - 5:15pm, Thursday, February 28

Community Building at Maritime Heritage Park
514 W. Holly Street

The community is invited to a Community Engagement Forum entitled, "Broadening employment opportunities for neurodivergent, intellectually challenged and non-college bound youth". Kim Reeves, WCC faculty and author of *Raising Ryan, Living with Autism*; Joe Wooding, BPS teacher/advocate will help kick off the conversation. The forum is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be provided.

Sponsored by Bellingham Public Schools



The Parent Coalition

The Arc of Whatcom County provides leadership support for individuals with developmental disabilities and their parents/guardians. The goal of the Parent Coalition is to enable persons with developmental disabilities and their parents/guardians to become effective and involved in accessing services.

The Parent Coalition newsletter is published monthly by:

The Arc of Whatcom County

Dan Godwin Community Center
2602 McLeod Road
Bellingham, WA 98225
(360) 715-0170
www.arcwhatcom.org

OFFICE HOURS:
10am-1pm Monday - Thursday

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Monica Burke

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Program Director: Monica Burke
Care & Resource Coordinator:
Mary Jo Durborow
DsO & Self Advocacy: Jessika Houston
P2P Coordinator: Karlene Umbaugh
P2P Parent Assistant: Melissa Abraham
Padres a Padres: Marta Mejia

Board of Directors
Emily Shiels, President;
Susan Larson, Vice President;
Dale Whipple, Secretary; Michelle
Karaffa, Barbara Roxas, Jen Thistle

Stay Connected

Online Community Calendar:

Visit The Arc's website at www.arcwhatcom.org and click on Events.

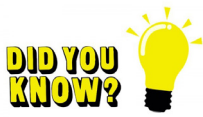
Facebook: Visit our FB page: www.facebook.com/ArcWhatcom for the latest information and events.

E-alerts: The Parent Coalition emails updates on legislation, workshops and upcoming activities. To sign up, visit www.arcwhatcom.org or email parentcoalition@arcwhatcom.org.



PARTNER AGENCY

The Parent Coalition is funded by grants from the Developmental Disabilities Program of Whatcom County, the United Way and your generous donations.



Ben's Fund can provide up to \$1,000 per year for therapies and equipment for children & young adults with autism. Find the details and application at <https://www.featwa.org/bens-fund.html>



Jill's House provides care and support to children with special needs and their families through overnight respite care. Jill's House has partnered with Miracle Ranch to bring the Weekend Adventures program to families in the Seattle area! Jill's House trained staff, including child care specialists, nurses, and a team of volunteers, are always available during the day to ensure your child's safety and give them a fun and positive experience. At night, your child will sleep in a small cabin with attached bathroom, along with a few of their new friends. A child care specialist will be awake and available through the night to attend to any child's needs. Meals are prepared in the main kitchen by camp staff with your child's special dietary restrictions in mind.

For more information, visit <https://www.jillshouse.org/puget-sound/>

The Arc of Whatcom County is open from 10am - 1pm, Monday through Thursday, to be accessible to families during the lunch hour. Please call to make an appointment if you are looking for support services outside of our scheduled business hours.

Event Calendar

February

7 Thursday, 4:30 - 6:30pm
Self Advocacy Meeting
see page 5 for more details

9 Saturday, 10am - 12pm
Washington Hands & Voices
Family Meet & Greet
Maritime Heritage Park
Pavilion
see page 4 for more details

11 Monday, 7 - 8:30pm
Parent Support Meeting
Topic: Assistive Technology
see page 3 for more details

18 Monday, 6 - 8pm
SPIN DANCE
Theme: Valentine's Day
see page 5 for more details

27 Wednesday 5:30 - 6:30pm
Arc of Whatcom County's
Board of Directors Meeting
Contact Beverly 715-0170 ext 306
or beverlyp@arcwhatcom.org

28 Thursday, 4 - 5:15pm
Community Engagement
Forum
Community Building at
Maritime Heritage Park
514 W. Holly Street
see page 7 for more details

March

7 Thursday, 4:30 - 6:30pm
Self Advocacy Meeting
see page 5 for more details

11 Monday, 7 - 8:30pm
Parent Support Meeting
Topic: tbd
see page 3 for more details

18 Monday, 6 - 8pm
SPIN DANCE
Theme: St. Paddy's Day
see page 5 for more details

25 Monday 4:30pm - 6:00pm
Developmental Disabilities
Advisory Board Meeting
St. Luke's Health
Education Center
3333 Squalicum Parkway

26 Tuesday 9:30 - 1pm
Transition Fair
Settlemyer Hall
BTC Campus Center Building
Bellingham Technical College
see page 7 for more details

27 Wednesday 5:30 - 6:30pm
Arc of Whatcom County's
Board of Directors Meeting
Contact Beverly 715-0170 ext 306
or beverlyp@arcwhatcom.org

29 Friday, 7:45am - 4:15pm
Duncan Seminar:
Supporting Infants & Children
with Neuromuscular Disorders
Seattle Children's Hospital
Wright Auditorium
see page 4 for more details

All events listed are in Bellingham unless otherwise noted.
Our full Event Calendar is available online at:
www.arcwhatcom.org/wp/events/