Guardianship First Steps

There is a great deal of information exploring guardianship, conservatorship, power of attorney and other legal planning for adulthood. Below you'll find simple steps and weblinks we've collected and created to ensure you have accurate and accessible resources to guide you and your family.

1 Read this guide which provides information on how to prepare for the future: https://arcwhatcom.org/guardianship-and-conservatorship-guidebook/

2 Obtain paperwork from Superior Court Whatcom Superior Court Clerk office, **Guardianship Facilitator,** 311 Grand Avenue; 3rd Floor, Suite 301; Bellingham, WA 98225 Phone: 360-778-5637. Meetings with the Guardianship Facilitator are by appointment only.

3 Adult Lay Guardianship Training in English and Spanish Access the WA state guardian portal and either review or take the 'Adult Lay Guardianship' Training. Before a guardian can be appointed, they must complete the free online training covering duties and responsibilities, required forms, and timelines. This test will need to be completed by you during the initial steps.

English Training:
https://www.courts.wa.gov/content/webinar/2022LayGuardianTraining/content/index.html#/

Spanish Training:
https://www.courts.wa.gov/content/webinar/2022AdultLayGuardianSPTranslation/index.html#/

4 Watch our latest YouTube Video on Future Planning and Guardianship
https://youtu.be/aPjB979l2yE

5 Attend a Paperwork support event at The Arc We have scheduled times for drop-in support as families complete paperwork from 11am to 1 pm on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. Check the Arc calendar at https://arcwhatcom.org/events/ or call 360-715-0170 ext 200.

The guardianship process can change over time, and we know that the court may continue to update and change forms. **Whatcom Superior Court** is the final say on how all of this does proceed. The **Guardianship Facilitator** (step 2) will be the best source for accuracy on the process: **360-778-5637.** https://www.whatcomcounty.us/2578/Guardianship-Facilitator

The Arc
Whatcom County

The Arc of Whatcom County provides support, information, and education to people with developmental disabilities, their families and caregivers. More resources are available at **www.arcwhatcom.org** or **360-715-0170**