

The Need for Guardianship

Sometimes formerly capable adults are no longer able to receive and evaluate information effectively, and their ability to communicate decisions is impaired. As a result, they are unable to make informed decisions about their health or finances and can no longer manage their basic needs, leaving them at risk. Such adults are considered to be incapacitated. This is usually determined by a physician.

Incapacitation is caused by a variety of circumstances such as advanced dementia, traumatic brain injury and persistent coma or vegetative state.



The Pennsylvania Orphan's Court has the authority to appoint a guardian for an adult who is incapacitated. The court may appoint a Guardian of the Person and/or a Guardian of Estate. Anyone interested in the welfare of the incapacitated adult can file a petition for guardianship. Since there are no public guardian services in Bucks County at this time, a guardian must be identified and willing to serve.



Stronger today. Brighter tomorrow.

ABOUT US

Family Service is a private, nonprofit social service organization with locations throughout Bucks County, PA. For 65 years, we have been improving the lives of children and families, doing whatever it takes to help them overcome obstacles and reach their full potential.

MISSION

We listen, care and help. Every day.

CONTACT US

Family Service Association of Bucks County

215.757.6916

TTY/TDD 215.750.0727

Bucks County Housing Link: 1.800.810.4434

CONTACT Helpline: 215.355.6000

www.fsabc.org

OFFICE LOCATIONS

Langhorne: 215.757.6916

4 Cornerstone Drive • Langhorne, PA

Doylestown: 215.345.0550

708 North Shady Retreat Road • Doylestown, PA

Quakertown: 215.538.1616

200 Apple Street, Suite 1 • Quakertown, PA



We are a member of the United Way of Bucks County and we are accredited by the Council on Accreditation for Children and Family Services, Inc. Our agency is licensed by The State of Pennsylvania to provide both outpatient mental health and drug and alcohol services. Services and employment are provided in a nondiscriminatory manner, without regard to age, race, religion, national origin, sex, limited English proficiency, disability, sexual orientation, transgender status, protected veteran status or other non-job-related factors, including those persons who are primary consumers of behavioral health services.

Guardianship for Adults

A team that makes medical and personal care decisions for incapacitated adults



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Role of the Guardian

The appointed guardian takes on the role of decision maker for the incapacitated adult and may be assigned to make decisions regarding medical care, personal care, housing and, in the case of a Guardian of the Estate, personal finances.



Who We Serve

Our Guardianship program is for adults who are in need of a Guardian of the Person to make medical and personal care decisions for them. Our Guardianship team does not serve as Guardian of the Estate; however, we can serve as Guardian of the Person for incapacitated adults who do not need a Financial Guardian or those who have a separate Guardian of Estate.

Our Team

All major decisions concerning the life, care and treatment of our clients are made by our Guardianship Team consisting of our:

- Chief Executive Officer
- Director of Community Based Programs
- Director of Nursing Services
- Older Adult Services Coordinator

Guardian of the Person: Responsibilities & Services

- Serve as a decision maker, typically to ensure proper medical care, consent to surgery and other medical treatment and make decisions about safe housing arrangements including placement in long-term care
- Regularly visit the residence, day program and other places to ensure that all environments are safe
- Promote excellence of care by maintaining contact with all care providers, monitoring changes in needs and services, seeking additional services when needed, changing care providers or living arrangements if necessary and promoting engagement with others to the fullest extent possible
- Make decisions in the best interest of the individual and in line with any expressed or known preferences whenever possible while still ensuring safety
- Advocate for the best quality of life, at all stages of life
- Submit timely service reports to the court as required by the Guardianship decree



How to Obtain Services

1. Contact Towana Brown, MPP, Older Adult Services Coordinator, at **215.757.6916, ext. 236** or tnbrown@fsabc.org.
2. We will assess the incapacitated adult for possible assumption of Guardianship.
3. If the incapacitated adult meets the criteria for our program, we will petition the Bucks County Orphan's Court and accept Guardianship of the Person if appointed by the court.

Fees

Guardianship fees range from \$75 to \$125 per hour and are determined on a case by case basis.