



	<u>Guardianship</u>	<u>Guardian Advocate</u>												
WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE COURT PROCEEDING?	The goal is to appoint a guardian to make medical and financial decisions for an incapacitated person or a minor whose parents are incapacitated or deceased.	The goal is to assist and enable an adult with developmental disabilities to be as independent as possible.												
WHO IS THE PROCEEDING APPROPRIATE FOR?	An incapacitated adult who does not have the cognitive ability to designate, in writing, a health care surrogate or, power of attorney. E.g. a person diagnosed with Alzheimer's, dementia or who is in a coma or vegetative state. Also for a minor whose parents are incapacitated or deceased or, who has received an inheritance or settlement.	An adult with: <table border="0"> <tr> <td>A developmental disability</td> <td>Spina bifida</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mentally challenged</td> <td>Praeder Willi Syndrome</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Autism</td> <td>Cerebral palsy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Phelan-McDermid syndrome</td> <td>Downs Syndrome</td> </tr> </table>	A developmental disability	Spina bifida	Mentally challenged	Praeder Willi Syndrome	Autism	Cerebral palsy	Phelan-McDermid syndrome	Downs Syndrome				
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WHAT IS THE APPROPRIATE AGE WHEN PARENTS NEED TO GO TO COURT?	When the child approaches their 18th birthday. At age 18 the child is a legal adult and parents do not have authority to make decisions for the adult child.	When the child approaches their 18th birthday. At age 18 the child is a legal adult and parents do not have authority to make decisions for the adult child.												
ARE LEGAL RIGHTS REMOVED?	Yes, some or all of a person's legal rights may be removed. These include the right to: <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Marry</td> <td>Contract</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vote</td> <td>Travel</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Apply for government benefits</td> <td>Manage property or make gifts of property</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Have a driver's license</td> <td>Determine residence</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sue & defend lawsuits</td> <td>Seek or retain employment</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Consent to medical & mental health treatment</td> </tr> </table>	Marry	Contract	Vote	Travel	Apply for government benefits	Manage property or make gifts of property	Have a driver's license	Determine residence	Sue & defend lawsuits	Seek or retain employment	Consent to medical & mental health treatment		No, the person retains all their legal rights.
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We invite you to schedule a consultation at our office to determine which planning option is appropriate for you to assist your loved one in protecting their rights, managing their financial resources, and meeting their needs for safety and physical and emotional wellbeing.

Call us at 954-382-1997 or visit www.fl-elderlaw.com to schedule a consultation.