

Guardianship for Young Adults

When someone 18 or older is unable to make decisions about their health care or finances, the court can appoint another adult—often a family member—to make those decisions on their behalf. This legal arrangement is called guardianship.



Why Guardianship May Be Needed

In Nevada, parents and legal guardians can make medical and financial decisions for their children until they turn 18. Once a young person becomes a legal adult, that authority ends—even if the individual still needs support due to a disability or limited decision-making capacity.

If the court finds that a person has a limited capacity and requires help making personal or financial decisions, it can appoint either a special or general guardian. The court will outline the guardian's specific powers and responsibilities (as defined in NRS 159.054).

How a Guardian Is Appointed

Some individuals with disabilities are still able to choose someone they trust to help with decisions. However, others may not be able to understand or make decisions about their health or property. In these cases, the court will appoint a guardian based on what is in the best interest of the individual.

A guardian can be:

- An adult chosen by the individual (if they are capable)
- A spouse
- An adult child or close relative
- Another responsible adult approved by the court

What Guardianship Allows

Depending on the type of guardianship and the court's order, a guardian may be authorized to:

- Make health care decisions
- Manage finances and property
- Handle legal matters

How to Request Guardianship

To begin the process, someone must file a petition—a formal request—with the court. This person is called the petitioner and is usually someone familiar with the individual's disability and interested in becoming their guardian.

The petitioner must:

- Submit required legal forms (often with the help of an attorney)
- Provide a Physician's Certificate, completed by a licensed physician or other qualified professional/agency that verifies the need for guardianship.

The court will review the case and determine whether the individual qualifies for guardianship.

How Long a Guardianship Lasts

In Nevada, guardianship can continue indefinitely. However, the court may review the case and terminate the guardianship if it is no longer necessary.

Need Help or Have Questions?



If you live in Clark County, Nevada, you can reach out to the following resources for assistance:

- **Nevada Legal Services (NLS)**
(702) 386-0404 or (866) 432-0404
<https://nevadalegalervices.org>
- **Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada**
(702) 386-1070
<https://www.lacsn.org>
- **Family Law Self-Help Center**
(702) 455-1500
<https://www.familylawselfhelpcenter.org>
- **The Arc Nevada**
<https://arcnv.org>
Email: contact@arcnv.org
- **Clark County Bar Association**
(702) 387-6011
<https://clarkcountybar.org>

National Resources:

- **American Bar Association – Find Legal Help:**
(800) 285-2221
www.americanbar.org
- **Mama Bear Legal Forms**
(888) 441-9455
[https://www.mamabearlegalforms.com](http://www.mamabearlegalforms.com)