

Rights of a Person in a Guardianship

In Missouri, people who are in a guardianship have some of their rights taken away. But you still have many rights! Here are some of your rights in our laws:

You have the right to:

- A guardian who acts in your best interests.
- A guardian who you can contact, within reason.
- Talk with family, friends, and other people that you want to. This includes the right to talk with these people in private. But your guardian can limit this right if they have good cause, for your benefit.
- Ask the court to change something about your guardianship. You can ask the court yourself. You can also ask someone to do this for you, like an advocate or lawyer.
- The “least restrictive guardianship assistance.”
- Have your rights restored as soon as possible. You may have to prove that you are ready for your guardianship to end.
- Get information from the court about your rights.
- “Participate in any health care decision-making process.” This does not mean the doctors or guardian will agree with you, but you at least have the right to be involved.

You can also ask the court for more rights. You can do this by contacting the court. You could also have someone ask for you, including an advocate or lawyer who is willing to help.

You can request the right to:

- Get married or divorced.
- Make or change contracts.
- Agree to medical treatment.
- Establish where you live.
- Change where you live.
- Bring a lawsuit that isn’t related to your guardianship.
- Drive a car (or other vehicle) if you can pass the test to get a driver’s license.

These are basic explanations of your rights. Understanding your rights can be hard. A supporter or lawyer can help you understand.

Depending on your guardianship, you may already have some of these rights. You can check by finding your case online at <https://www.courts.mo.gov/cnet/>.