

Notice: Change in Law for Guardianship of a Person Eligible for or Receiving Services from the Division of Developmental Disabilities

Effective February 1, 2016, the statutory law setting forth procedures for seeking guardianship of a person eligible for or receiving services from the Division of Developmental Disabilities (*N.J.S.A. 30:4-165.8*) has changed. *See* P.L. 2015, c. 132, approved November 9, 2015.

Since 2002, the New Jersey Judiciary has provided a kit for use by self-represented litigants entitled “How to Become the Legal Guardian of a Person Receiving Services from the Division of Developmental Disabilities.” The change to the statute has made this kit outdated. The Administrative Office of the Courts, Civil Practice Division is revising the kit and preparing new forms to reflect the recent amendments to the statute. These documents will be posted on the Judiciary’s website as soon as possible.

If you wish to apply for appointment of a guardian for an individual eligible for services from the Division of Developmental Disabilities, it is **NOT** necessary to wait for the revised kit to be posted online. You may retain an attorney to represent you, or you may proceed without an attorney and prepare your own documents by reviewing the relevant statute and court rules. You may also request assistance from the New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities, Bureau of Guardianship Services. More information about the Bureau of Guardianship Services is available at the following link:

<http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/services/guardianship/>

Please note that court staff, including Surrogate’s Court employees, cannot provide legal advice or unapproved forms. ***Questions regarding guardianship procedure may be directed to your local Surrogate’s Court.*** Questions regarding this notice may be directed to:

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