

Making Decisions

Getting a Guardian



**What happens when you have problems
making decisions.**

Easy English

2020

This book is about



what happens when you have problems making decisions by yourself.

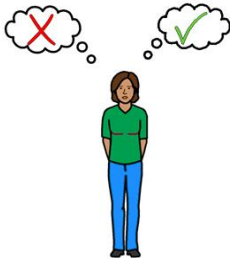
It tells you about



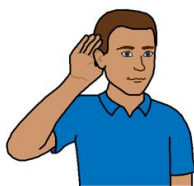
- your right to make decisions



- who can help you make decisions



- what a guardian is
- how you get a guardian, if you need one



- how an advocate can help you.

Easy Read



Hard Words

This book has some hard words.

The first time we write a hard word

- the hard word is in **blue**
- we will write what the hard word means



You **can** get help with this book.

You **can** get someone to help you

- read this book
- know what it says
- find more information

Making decisions

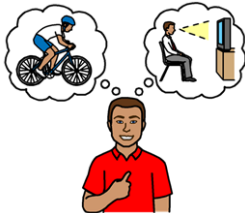


You **have the right** to make your own decisions about your life.

You have the right to make **decisions**, like



- what clothes you wear



- what you do in your free time



- where you want to live



- who your friends are

Sometimes you might need **help** to make decisions.



If you need help to make decisions, you can **ask someone** to help you.

We call this **supported decision-making**.



Supported decision-making means someone helps you make decisions about your life and how you will live.

The person can



- **listen** to your ideas



- help you get the **information** you need to make the decision



- help you think about your **choices**.



The person does **not** make the decision for you.



You make the decision.



Sometimes some people find it **too hard** to make all their own decisions,



even with help.



When this happens you **may** need a person to make decisions for you.

We call this person a **guardian**.

What is a guardian?



A **guardian** is a person who **makes decisions** for you.

The decisions might be about



- where you live and who you live with



- your education



- if you can work or **not**

- what job you have

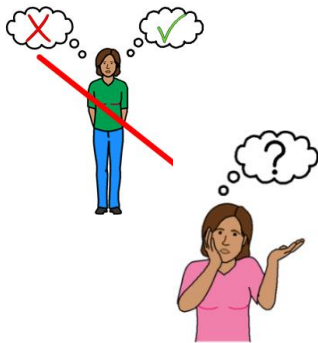


- your healthcare



- you and the law

Do I need a guardian?



Most people with disabilities do **not** need a guardian, **even if** they have problems making decisions.

You probably do **not** need a guardian if you



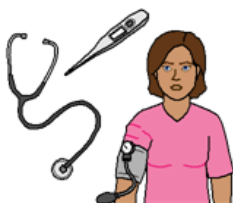
- have good support from family and friends



- have help from community services



- can easily find somewhere to live



- have the health care you need

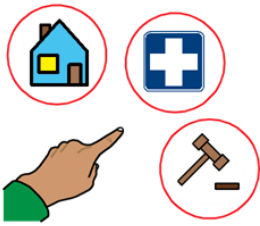


- have a job



- enjoy taking part in activities.

You only need a guardian if



important decisions need to be made about your life, but



- you can **not** make the decisions, **even with help**

or



- you do **not** understand the **good** or **bad** things that might happen when you make the decisions, **even with help**

How do I get a guardian?



If a person who knows you

- is worried about you
- thinks you need **more help** to make decisions about your life



or



- is worried about decisions **another person** is making for you

the person can ask the **The ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal** to choose a guardian for you.



The ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal is a group of people from the government.

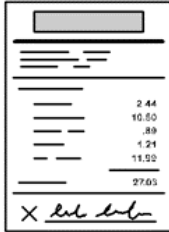


We call the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal **ACAT**.

How does ACAT decide if I need a guardian?



When a person asks ACAT for a guardian for you, they must make a **guardianship application**.



A **guardianship application** is a form that tells ACAT about you and the problem you have making decisions.

We call the person who makes the application the **applicant**.



The **applicant** should tell you

- **when** they make a guardianship application for you
- and
- **why** they think you need a guardian.



When ACAT gets the guardianship application, they will



- write a letter to ask **you** and **the applicant** to come to ACAT for a **hearing**.



A **hearing** is like a meeting.

ACAT may ask other people to come to the hearing, like your



- family



- carer or support worker



- doctor



You can also ask other people to come to the hearing.

It is important that **you** go to the **hearing** so you can tell ACAT



- what you **can** make decisions about

and



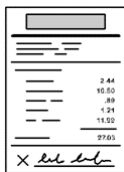
- what decisions you have problems with

When you go to the **hearing**



- 2 or 3 people from ACAT will be there.

They will ask questions about



- the **guardianship application**.



- your life



- if you think you **need** a guardian to help you make decisions.

ACAT will also ask you **what decisions**
you need help with, like



- your housing



- education



- job



- health care

or



- you and the law .

You may need help with



- **all** of these decisions

or



- only **1** of these decisions.

ACAT will also ask the applicant



- why **they think** you need a guardian.

Sometimes ACAT may ask for more information, like



- a report from your doctor.



If ACAT needs more information, they may ask **everyone** to come back another time.

ACAT wants to make sure



- they have **all** the information they need **before** they make a decision



- the decision they make is the **best** one for you.

Who will be my guardian?

If ACAT decides you need a guardian, they can choose a person **you trust**, like



- someone from your family or a friend
- your carer or support person

If you do **not** have someone you can trust to be your guardian, ACAT may choose the



- **Public Trustee and Guardian (PTG)** to be your guardian.

The **Public Trustee and Guardian** is a person whose **job** is to be your guardian, if your family, friend or carer can **not** be your guardian.



When ACAT chooses your guardian, we call you a **protected person**.

How an **advocate** can help

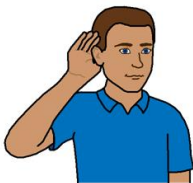


An **advocate** is a person who listens to you and helps you to be treated fairly

An advocate can



- help you if you are worried about getting a guardian



- listen to what you want



- be with you at a hearing



- help you to speak for yourself

or



- speak for you, if you want

How do I find an advocate?



Advocacy for Inclusion is a Canberra organisation.

We have advocates who can help people with disabilities sort out problems in their lives.

You can call us on



(02) 6257 4005

or

you can email us at



info@advocacyforinclusion.org

Advocacy for Inclusion wrote the Easy English

Contact details

2.02 Griffin Centre, 20 Genge Street Canberra City ACT 2601

Phone: 6257 4005

Email: info@advocacyforinclusion.org

ABN: 90 670 934 099

Image Acknowledgments

Picture Communication Symbols © 1981-2010 by Myer-Johnson LLC.

All Rights Reserved Worldwide. Used with permission. Boardmaker™

is a trademark of Myer-Johnson LLC. Myer-Johnson LLC P.O box

1579. Solana Beach, CA 92075. Phone 858-550-0084