

Making Decisions

Now You Have a Guardian



What does it mean?

What are your rights?

This book is about

what happens when you have a **guardian**.

It tells you



- what a guardian is



- who chooses your guardian



- what a guardian does



- what you can do if you are **not** happy with your guardian.

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

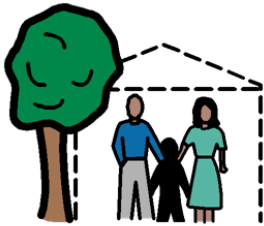
- read this book
- know what it says
- find more information

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

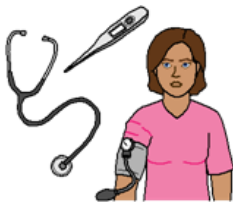


- your education



- if you can work or **not**

- what job you have



- your healthcare



- you and the law

Who chooses a guardian for me?



The **ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal** chooses your guardian.



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

They decide who is the **best** person to make decisions for you.



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



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

How does ACAT choose my guardian?



ACAT asks you to come to a meeting with your family, your carer or other support people.

We call the meeting a **hearing**.

At the **hearing**, ACAT will



- **listen** to you, your family or carers about what you **need**



- **listen** to advice from your doctor or other people who help care for you



- decide **if** you need a guardian
- decide **who** will be your guardian



When ACAT decides who your guardian is, they will



- write a legal letter. The letter is called an **order**. The **order** says



- **who** will be your guardian.
- **what decisions** your guardian can make.

Your guardian can **only** make decisions about the things in the order.

What does the guardian do?

Your guardian should



- **help** you to make decisions

and



- make sure you have all the **information you need** to make a decision.

We call this

- **Supported decision making.**

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



When your guardian **makes decisions** for you, they must follow some **rules**.

Your guardian must



- understand and follow **your wishes** as much as they can

- follow your wishes in a way that **looks after you**



- only make a decision that is **different** from your wishes when your wishes are **not** good or safe for you



- **respect** your life and lifestyle



- help you to **look after yourself** as much as you can



- help you to live and take part in the **community** as much as you can.

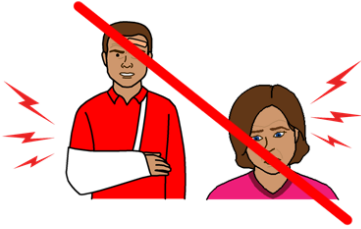


- talk to you, your family or your carer **before** they make a decision for you.



Your guardian must protect you

Your guardian must



- **protect you** from physical or mental hurt



- **help you** live your life the way you want



- **help you learn** how to make decisions that **keep you safe**.

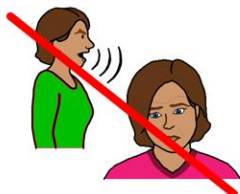
Your guardian must **not**



- **ignore** your wishes



- make decisions that are best or easiest for them and **not** you



- **control** your life



- **stop** you from making choices that you are able to make about your life



- make decisions that **keep you away** from your family, friends or the community



- **control** or **take** your money or things you own. This is a **crime**.

What if I do not like the decisions my guardian makes for me?

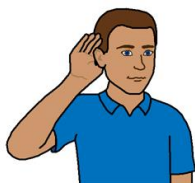


If you think that your guardian is **not** making good decisions about your life, you can get help from an **advocate**.



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

An advocate will



- **listen** to you to find out what the problem is



- **work with you** to try and solve the problem



- **help you** to speak for yourself, or



- **speak for you** if you want



If you are **not** happy with your guardian,
you can ask an advocate to



- talk to your guardian for you



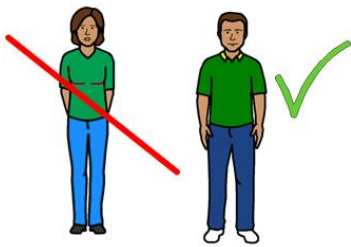
- talk to **ACAT**



- help you to ask ACAT for **changes** to the guardianship order.



- **stop** a person being your guardian if your guardian does the **wrong thing**



- **choose** another person to be your guardian,

or



- decide you do **not** need a guardian anymore.

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

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