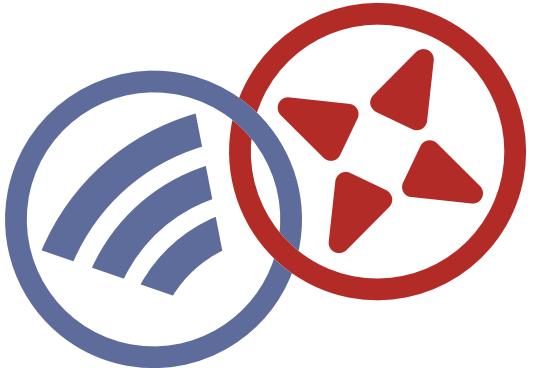


# CENTER ON **YOUTH VOICE** **YOUTH CHOICE**



## Week 5 Guardianship

### YOUTH AMBASSADOR CURRICULUM

#### WEEK 5: GUARDIANSHIP



Artwork courtesy of Gabby Melnick with Sangha Unity Network

# Ice Breaker





Guardianship

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Why people get guardianship

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Types of guardianship

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Understanding the need for  
good information

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Guardianship is not always  
necessary!!

# What is guardianship?

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- Guardianship is a legal process where someone makes decisions for another person and has a big say in that person's life.



# What is guardianship?



# Facts about guardianship

01

Parents are often told to get a Guardianship

02

It can be hard to get rid of Guardianship

03

Families and youth need to get **good information** before deciding if they need or want Guardianship

# Facts about guardianship

Guardianship is an “old school” legal process that hasn’t changed much

Guardians are appointed when some people don’t *believe* that someone can make his or her own decisions

- ***BUT THAT’S NOT ALWAYS TRUE!***

# More on guardianship

Guardianship of children

**Guardianship of adults with intellectual disabilities**

Guardianship of older adults

“The typical ward has fewer rights than the typical convicted felon . . . . By appointing a guardian, the court entrusts to someone else the power to choose where they will live, what medical treatment they will get and, in rare cases, when they will die.

It is, in one short sentence, the most punitive civil penalty that can be levied against an American citizen...”

-Claude Pepper, *Former U.S. Senator*



# Different kinds of guardianship

## Rights under full guardianship

- Many rights are taken away

## Rights under limited guardianship

- Depends on the court order
- You keep some of your important rights

In some cultures, families may want to take care of their family members, especially their children, forever



# Your rights and guardianship

How would you  
feel if you lost...

Your right to  
vote?

Your right to  
make healthcare  
decisions?

Your right to  
manage your  
own money?

Your right to  
decide where  
you work?

Your right to get  
married or have  
friends?

# How to change or undo a guardianship

***Believe in yourself!***

**You should talk to other people who believe in you, too, so they can support you**

**You will have to go to court and file some papers**

**You may need a lawyer's help:**

- contact your state's Protection and Advocacy agency!

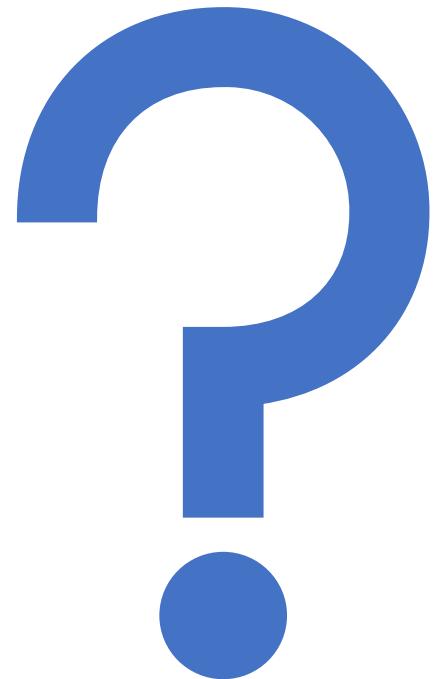
## Small Group Discussion

- What are some reasons a court would appoint a guardian?
- What kinds of decisions can a guardian make on behalf of someone else?
- What are your thoughts on guardianship?
- Who is the person in your family that makes the decisions?
- What kind of decisions do you make?

# Homework

Review a one-page fact sheet on  
Guardianship in your state

- Report back next week on your thoughts or what you learned.
- You can also come to office hours to discuss the fact sheet and laws in your state



Any questions?

## About

The Center is a project of the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston (ICI) in partnership with:

- Center for Public Representation (CPR)
- Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE)
- Human Services Research Institute (HSRI)

in consultation with experts from:

- Harvard Law School Project on Disability
- Georgia Advocacy Office

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### For more information

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