

Office of Public Guardianship

The Office of Public Guardianship (OPG) works to promote the availability of adult guardianship services by providing support for individuals who may need it and for whom these services may not otherwise be available. Recent legislative support has expanded the program statewide and now allows access to less restrictive alternatives, such as durable power of attorney. The OPG contracts with certified professional guardians (CPGs) to provide *effective support responsive to individual needs and wishes*.

Learn more about...

- * Eligibility and Priorities
- * Application Process
- * Availability

www.courts.wa.gov/guardianportal/



For more information, contact:

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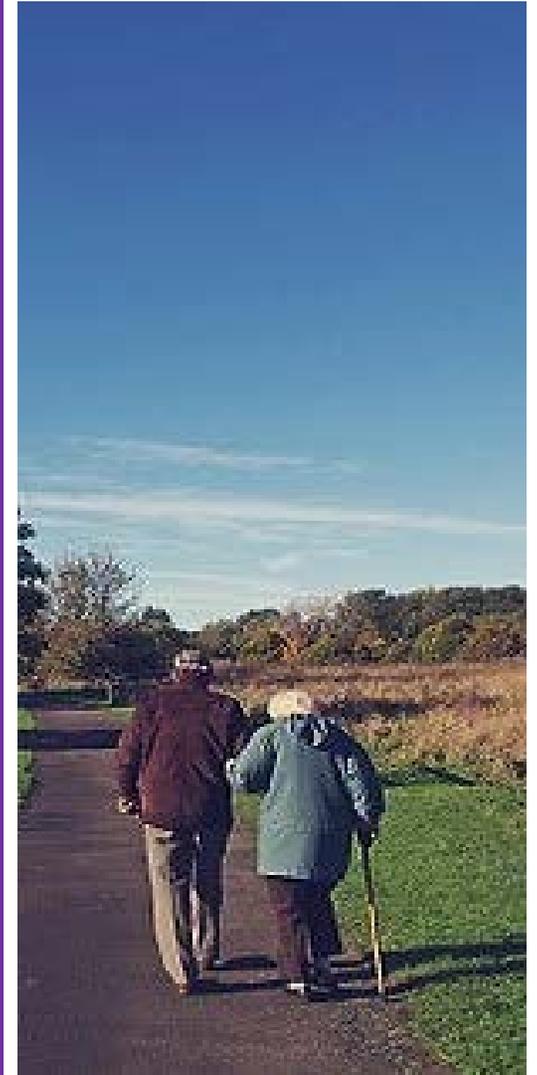
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Washington State Office of Public Guardianship

Program Eligibility

CPGs working with the OPG may serve individuals with diminished decision-making ability who are:

- 18 years or older,
- With an income that does not exceed 200 percent of the federal poverty level (for 2021, \$25,760 annually or \$2,147 monthly) **or** receiving long-term care services through the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, and
- For whom no one else is qualified, willing and able to serve.

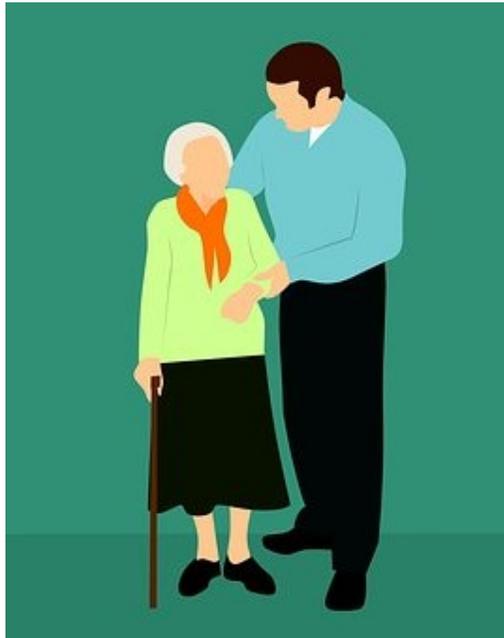
Program Priorities

Due to limited funding, the OPG cannot provide services to everyone who satisfies the eligibility criteria. Priority is given to individuals who are:

- Indigent/Homeless,
- At significant risk of harm from abuse, exploitation, abandonment, neglect, or self-neglect, or
- In imminent danger of loss or significant reduction in public services that are necessary to live successfully in the most integrated and least restrictive environment.

Application Process

Before applying to the program, a petition for guardianship must be filed, eligibility must be established and a Guardian Search Form must be completed. These steps establish need as well as lack of access to services. When no other guardian is willing or able to serve and an individual meets eligibility criteria, an OPG referral form is completed. If a public guardian is available to provide services to the adult, they will arrange to meet before accepting the appointment.



Availability

The Washington State Institute for Public Policy reports that an estimated 4,000 - 5,000 individuals are in need of and eligible for public guardianship services. Currently the OPG has capacity to serve 2-3% of this estimated need. OPG staff maintain an active waitlist and conduct periodic review to ensure OPG services continue to fulfill program priorities.