

Alternatives to Guardianship



What is guardianship? Guardianship is when one person gets the legal rights of another person. This usually happens when the person needing help is 18 or older and has a disability. The person who gets these rights is called the guardian, and a judge is the one who appoints them. The judge also decides what rights the guardian will have, like making medical or financial decisions for the person with a disability.

Does everyone with a disability need a guardian? No, not at all! Not everyone with a disability needs a guardian. It's important not to assume that someone with a disability can't make their own decisions.

What are alternatives to guardianship? There are many ways people with disabilities can get support if they want it. Some options are simple, like having a joint bank account with someone you trust to help manage your money. Others are a bit more complex, like signing a Power of Attorney. This allows someone else to make medical or financial decisions for you when you can't. There are also larger systems, like Supported Decision-Making, that help you get support in different areas of your life. You can find more information about different alternatives to guardianship below. Feel free to contact us at Disability Rights New Mexico (DRNM) to talk to someone about these options.



**What is a guardian?
Do I really need one?**



**Know your rights:
Young adults with disabilities
in New Mexico**



**101 alternatives
to guardianship**



**What is
Supported Decision-
Making?**



**DRNM's
Supported
Decision-Making
Guidebook**



**Request help
from DRNM**

**Disability Rights New Mexico is here to help!
We provide FREE legal services to people with disabilities across New Mexico.**

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