

Does Your Disabled Loved One Need A Guardianship/Conservatorship? *A Brief Overview*



Some disabilities can affect our mental ability to make decisions for ourselves and to care for ourselves physically and financially. This is usually true for people who suffer from serious mental health illnesses, brain injuries, or neurological diseases that affect our memory and mental capacity. Many of our clients who suffer from these disorders require a close family member or friend to watch over them constantly to monitor and assist them with their daily activities. Typically, such caretakers go through a legal process to become the official guardian and/or conservator of

their disabled loved one. This way they are legally recognized as the primary care taker and decision maker for the disabled individual.

What is a guardianship/conservatorship?

A **guardianship** is a legal appointment for a "competent adult" (guardian) to be responsible for the care, custody, and control for a 'vulnerable or incapacitated' person (the ward) who needs help with their daily life activities and need to be protected from making choices and decision that could be to their detriment. A guardianship is usually appropriate for people with disabilities such as Autism, Down Syndrome, advanced cases of Cerebral Palsy, mental illness, Alzheimer's, dementia, traumatic brain injury accidents, or other serious illnesses where you are concerned a loved one may be of harm to themselves.

- A legal guardian has the power and the responsibility similar to that of a parent toward a minor child.
- A guardian must make sure that the ward's abilities, desires and choices are considered while meeting their basic needs. A guardian has the duty and right to act on behalf of the individual, making decisions affecting their daily living arrangements, medical care, education, and social activities.

A **conservatorship** is a legal appointment for a "competent adult" (conservator) to be responsible for the care, custody, and control for a vulnerable or incapacitated person (the ward) who needs someone else to take care of their financial affairs for them. The conservator is appointed by a judge to manage the financial affairs and/or daily life of another due to the same illnesses as listed above for a guardianship.

- The difference between a guardianship and a conservatorship is that a guardianship gives control over the person where the conservatorship gives control over the financial affairs of the person.

If you or someone in your family would like some additional information about guardianships and/or conservatorships, please contact our office.

In Memoriam: **To Those We've Lost**



Over the past few of months, we have had a few clients pass away. Although we were not as close to these clients like their family members and friends were to them; we did know their life stories, their hopes, dreams, and fears; and we knew how bravely they fought their illnesses. And our whole team has felt their loss. We know the sadness we feel doesn't even compare to the pain and grief their families feel. We just want to express to these families that your loved one touched our lives. We are honored to have been a part of their life even for short period of time. Please know they are remembered, and we are here if we can offer your any support.

How Was Your Summer?



We hope you had a great summer! The heat is still with us, but we're finally seeing glimpses of fall here in Georgia. Sara Khaki spent two weeks in Egypt this summer with her husband and kids. They spent the time visiting with her husband's family. They got to ride a camel near the pyramids!

AVVO 2016 Client Choice Award

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We are so pleased to have been awarded the Client's Choice Award for 2016 for Social Security Disability and Guardianship. This is our third year in a row receiving this honor. We are so grateful for serving our clients, and their satisfaction is what drives us!





Calendar of Events:

August 2016

- August 2nd: In Court; Atlanta, GA
In Court; Augusta, GA
- August 4th : In Court; Atlanta, GA
- August 9th: In Court; Covington, GA
- August 10th: In Court; Gainesville, GA
- August 11th: In Court; Savannah, GA
- August 16th: In Court; Covington, GA
In Court; Atlanta, GA
- August 29th: In Court; Atlanta, GA
- August 30th: In Court; Atlanta, GA
- August 31st: In Court; Atlanta, GA



Contact Us!

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Disability Maze!"