



# PROGRAM REFERRAL INFORMATION

## INFORMATION AND REFERRAL

The Multnomah County Public Guardian's Office provides information and consultation on matters related to guardianship and conservatorship. We encourage you to call and discuss problem situations or a possible referral. Serious referrals must contain the assessments and information required by the program, to assure that intakes comply with program and court standards, and agency values. We encourage you to enlist the support of team members when completing the attached worksheet. A referral letter or existing narrative from evaluations, reports or case notes may be substituted if this documentation can sufficiently address the areas of incapacity. In either case, we must have the required information to file. Petitioning the court for guardianship and conservatorship is a process involving assessment, documentation and a legal proceeding in the Multnomah County Circuit Court.

## ELIGIBILITY AND PROGRAM CRITERIA/STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

Age 18 or over.

Multnomah County resident.

No family or private sector resource willing and able to serve as guardian/conservator.

High risk of abuse, exploitation, loss of life, health or safety.

No less restrictive intervention available.

Meets Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS), court, and program standards for incapacity (see excerpts below).

## GUARDIANSHIP (Personal and Health Care Decisions)

The Multnomah County Public Guardian/Conservator petitions the court on cases for which it has agreed to serve as guardian; the court decides whether guardianship and/or conservatorship will be granted. Within statutory and program criteria, we triage referrals for urgency and risk to the individual.

The Public Guardian Office does not conduct the investigations or assessments necessary to determine and document incapacity; we rely on independent professional assessments. **Referrals must be documented sufficiently to allow an intake decision, a responsible and complete court filing, and to support a contested case hearing.**

"Incapacitated" means a condition in which a person's ability to receive and evaluate information effectively or to communicate decisions is impaired to such an extent that the person presently lacks the capacity to meet the essential requirements for the person's physical health and safety. *"Meeting the essential requirements for physical health and safety" means those actions necessary to provide the health care, food, shelter, clothing, personal hygiene and other care without which serious physical injury or illness is likely to occur.* ORS 125.005(5).

## CONSERVATORSHIP (Property and Financial Decisions)

Referrals for conservatorship only may be accepted when the client is an individual with declining capacity who is expected to require guardianship in the foreseeable future. Priority is given to situations involving exploitation or where conservatorship may preserve a more independent lifestyle for the individual.

"Financially incapable" means a condition in which a person is unable to manage financial resources of the person effectively for reasons including, but not limited to, mental illness, mental deficiency, physical illness or disability, chronic use of drugs or controlled substances, chronic intoxication, confinement, detention by a foreign power or disappearance. *"Manage financial resources" means those actions necessary to obtain, administer and dispose of real and personal property, intangible property, business property, benefits and income.*" ORS 125.005(3).

## TEMPORARY FIDUCIARY (Emergency Guardianship)

A temporary fiduciary who will exercise the powers of a guardian may be appointed by the court *"if the court makes a specific finding by clear and convincing evidence that the respondent is incapacitated or a minor, that there is an immediate and serious danger to the life or health of the respondent, and that the welfare of the respondent requires immediate action"* (ORS 125.600). Our program gives priority for temporary guardianship/conservatorship to cases of abuse and exploitation.

## DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

Documentation should address both incapacity and the results of that incapacity, as outlined in ORS 125.005(5). Opinions should be supported by facts. The factual information must demonstrate that appointment is necessary as a means of providing continuing care and supervision and must give a clear expectation of what guardianship or conservatorship can and will accomplish. Reports should be recent and suitable for court review.

**Referral Worksheet/Letter:** The worksheet (see attached) should contain the factual information that supports the request for the appointment of a fiduciary (guardian or conservator) and the names/addresses of all persons who have information that would support a finding of incapacity or financial incapability.

**Medical Statement:** Local court standards require submission of a letter from the treating physician which summarizes the diagnoses, at least one of which relates to the incapacity, as well as other relevant medical issues. This report should outline needed medical decisions, and include a clear statement of opinion about incapacity and a recommendation for guardianship.

**Psychological/Psychiatric Assessment:** This should directly address the areas of mental or functional incapacity. Extensive testing is not required if simple or partial instruments display the deficit(s) clearly and are interpreted. In cases involving judgment and insight deficits only, psychological testing is essential, as well as discussion by the clinician concerning the link between reported harmful behavior and the deficit(s).

### WORKSHEET SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

To submit the below worksheet for referral, save a copy of this PDF document to your computer (enabled for Adobe Reader users), then send **Attention: Stephanie Harrington or Kristin Riley** using one of the following methods:

1. **Attach as an E-mail** to [mcpgc@multco.us](mailto:mcpgc@multco.us).
2. **Print a copy and FAX** to (503) 988-4075.
3. **Print a copy and MAIL** to the MCPGC at 209 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 510, Portland, OR 97204.
4. For Multnomah County users: **Print a copy and INTEROFFICE MAIL** to 167/1/510.

Any questions, please contact us at (503) 988-4567.



**Office of the Public Guardian and Conservator (MCPGC)**

209 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 510 • Portland, Oregon 97204 • Phone (503) 988-4567 • Fax (503) 988-4075

Web: [www.multco.us/ads/public-guardian-program](http://www.multco.us/ads/public-guardian-program) • E-mail: [mcpgc@multco.us](mailto:mcpgc@multco.us)

# REFERRAL WORKSHEET

SERVICE REQUESTED

Guardianship

Conservatorship

Emergency G/C

## REFERRAL INFORMATION

Please supply your name and contact information. (DCHS referrals: name and phone only is okay)

Name, Title	Agency, Office, or Hospital Name			
Street Address	Room #	City	State	Zip
Phone	Alt. Phone, Fax, Cell, E-mail (specify)			

## CLIENT INFORMATION

Last Name	First Name	Middle
Prefers to be Called (if different from above)	Aliases	
Date of Birth	Marital Status	Social Security Number
Primary Medical Insurance (Medicaid, Medicare, etc.)	Primary Medical Number	
Secondary Medical Insurance	Secondary Medical Number	
Other Medical Insurance (VA, Tribal Benefits, etc.)	Other Medical Number	

## PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION AND PREFERENCES

Height	Weight	Eye Color	Hair
Gender Identity (Client Preference)	Physical Gender		
Race / Ethnicity (Client Preference, multiple listings or "none" okay)			
Language (Client Preference)	Primary Language (if different from English)		
Mobility Needs (Wheelchair, Prosthetics)	Other Ability Needs (Visual, Auditory, etc.)		

## CULTURALLY-SPECIFIC NEEDS

Please identify any culturally-specific needs or sensitivities important to the person that should to be accommodated in the development of an effective working relationship and care plan. This might include cultural or religious associations, gender affinity preferences, sensitivity in discussing particular traumatic events or life experiences, or other communication needs respectful of client preference. Use Additional Comments on Page 11 for more.

## CURRENT LOCATION

Please indicate the individual's current, immediate location.

Facility or Hospital Name (if applicable)

Street Address	Room #	City	State	Zip
Phone	Alt. Phone, Fax, Cell, E-mail (specify)			
Expected Date of Discharge (if any)	Notes Re: this Location			

## PERMANENT OR REGULAR RESIDENCE

Please indicate where the individual regularly resides, if different from above.

Facility Name (if applicable)

Street Address	Room #	City	State	Zip
Phone	Alt. Phone, Fax, Cell, E-mail (specify)			
Dates	Notes Re: this Location			

## OTHER CONTACT INFO

Email  
Address

Social Media  
Contact Info

Please identify any challenges in contacting the client either in-person or through the above options. Use Additional Comments on Page 11 for more.

## ALTERNATIVES ATTEMPTED

Consistent with State of Oregon statute, national practice standards and Multnomah County values, the MCPGC's program policy is that guardianship/conservatorship is an intervention of last resort. In addition to the eligibility criteria listed in the introductory preface above, referrals must also demonstrate that lesser-restrictive interventions have been creditably attempted and were not successful. Please indicate which methods have been tried and describe the results below. Use Additional Comments on Page 11 for more.

- Advanced Directive \_\_\_\_\_
- Health Care Representative \_\_\_\_\_
- Mental/Behavioral Health Commitment or Services \_\_\_\_\_
- Adult Protective Services or Other Case Management \_\_\_\_\_
- Private or Family Guardianship \_\_\_\_\_
- In-Home or Community-Based Caregiving or Support \_\_\_\_\_
- Financial Power of Attorney \_\_\_\_\_
- Representative Payee Services \_\_\_\_\_
- Supported Decision-Making \_\_\_\_\_
- Other (Please Describe) \_\_\_\_\_

**EFFICACY OF GUARDIANSHIP/CONSERVATORSHIP**

Guardianship/conservatorship authority is not an automatic "fix" that can resolve every issue. Please describe the practical application of guardian/conservator authority and how it will make a difference in the circumstance (for example, consent for involuntary medication administration). Use Additional Comments on Page 11 for more.

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**REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION**

A complete referral for public guardianship/conservatorship must include a completed psychiatric/cognitive evaluation and a letter from a physician directly supporting the need for guardianship/conservatorship. Other formal documentation such as medical records, authorizations for release of information, or other decision-making documents that can support the need for guardianship/conservatorship are helpful as well but not required.

- Psychiatric/Cognitive Evaluation**       No       Yes      (Attach Copy)
- Physician Letter**       No       Yes      (Attach Copy)
- Medical History & Physical       No       Yes      (Attach Copy)
- Authorization for Release of Information       No       Yes      (Attach Copy)

## Physicians Who Have Treated or Evaluated

1	Name, Title	Office or Hospital Name			
	Street Address	Room #	City	State	Zip
	Phone	Alt. Phone, Fax, Cell, E-mail (specify)			
2	Name, Title	Office or Hospital Name			
	Street Address	Room #	City	State	Zip
	Phone	Alt. Phone, Fax, Cell, E-mail (specify)			

## GUARDIANSHIP / CONSERVATORSHIP CRITERIA NARRATIVE

### 1. Events Leading Up to this Referral

Please narrate the situation to date. Be sure to specify all incidents and activities that have contributed or are contributing to the need for guardianship/conservatorship. Examples include: repeated hospitalizations, substantiated abuse or Adult Protective Services involvement, police or other public safety involvement, homelessness, incidences of abuse, self-neglect or financial exploitation. Please include dates if possible.

*Factual information*

*Limit response here to the size of this box - add more to Additional Comments on Page 11.*

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### 2. Ability to Evaluate Information / Communication





## 6. Management of Financial Resources

Describe the individual's financial situation and document their ability to effectively manage their affairs; be sure to include specifics as to their primary expenses and any outstanding debt or collections owed, whether they are receive Medicaid benefits or other public assistance. Describe whether or not a representative payee, money manager, financial power of attorney, or other fiduciary is involved and any issues surrounding these arrangements.

*Factual information*

*Limit response here to the size of this box - add more to Additional Comments on Page 11.*

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## INCOME AND ASSETS

### Monthly Income (Social Security, SSI, pensions, etc.)

Source	Contact Info (if necessary)	Amount
Source	Contact Info (if necessary)	Amount
Source	Contact Info (if necessary)	Amount
Source	Contact Info (if necessary)	Amount

### Bank Accounts or Other Accounts

Bank Name and Branch	Account Number	Balance
Bank Name and Branch	Account Number	Balance

### Real Property (all real property owned or co-owned by the individual whether improved or unimproved, in-state or out of state)

1	Street Address	Room #	City	State	Zip
	Name on Title	Phone, Fax, Cell, E-mail (specify)			
2	Street Address	Room #	City	State	Zip
	Name on Title	Phone, Fax, Cell, E-mail (specify)			

**Personal Property** (Automobiles, furniture, jewelry, household furnishings, etc.)

<b>1</b>	Description	Estimated Value
<b>2</b>	Description	Estimated Value
<b>3</b>	Description	Estimated Value

**Other Property** (Insurance policies, stocks, bonds, funeral arrangements, etc.)

<b>1</b>	Description	Cash Value
<b>2</b>	Description	Cash Value
<b>3</b>	Description	Cash Value

**CONTACTS**

**Individuals Entitled to be Legally-Noticed** Oregon statute requires certain related individuals are entitled to receive notice upon petitioning the court for guardianship/conservatorship. Please document and include the contact information of any and all of the following known (even if they are currently uninvolved or do not wish involvement): spouses, parents, adult children, current co-habitants, nearest relatives, attorneys.

Name		Relationship			
Street Address		Room #	City	State	Zip
Phone		Alt. Phone, Fax, Cell, E-mail (specify)			
Name		Relationship			
Street Address		Room #	City	State	Zip
Phone		Alt. Phone, Fax, Cell, E-mail (specify)			
Name		Relationship			
Street Address		Room #	City	State	Zip
Phone		Alt. Phone, Fax, Cell, E-mail (specify)			
Name		Relationship			
Street Address		Room #	City	State	Zip
Phone		Alt. Phone, Fax, Cell, E-mail (specify)			



