



Missouri's Working Interdisciplinary Network of Guardianship Stakeholders

Guardianship and Voting

1. CHECK YOUR GUARDIANSHIP ORDER.

Guardianships appointed after 2018 could include several rights such as voting. Does the guardianship order say if you have the right to vote while under guardianship? If you do not have a copy of your guardianship order, you can look up your case on MissouriCase.net. Contact the probate clerk at the probate division where your guardianship was filed if you would like to view your file and request a copy. You can find contact information on your local probate court's webpage.

2. TELL YOUR GUARDIAN THAT YOU WANT THE RIGHT TO VOTE.

Tell them in person, write them a letter, call them on the phone, or ask someone you trust to tell them for you. Prepare to explain why this right is important to you.

3. TELL THE JUDGE YOU WANT THE RIGHT TO VOTE.

Write the probate judge that is listed in your guardianship order and tell them you want to vote. Send the letter directly to them at the probate court. You can also email either the probate judge or the probate court generally; check their website for contact information. Explain the reasons you want to vote. If writing letters and/or emails is not comfortable for you, have someone you trust help you.

4. TALK TO YOUR DOCTOR(S) AND CARE PROVIDERS, AND ASK THEM TO WRITE A LETTER.

Anyone can send the probate judge a letter about your right to vote! Ask them to send the probate judge a letter saying your right to vote should be reinstated.

5. YOU CAN HAVE AN ATTORNEY HELP GET YOUR RIGHTS REINSTATED.

Find an attorney that specializes in guardianship cases. You can also contact MO Protection and Advocacy, a federally funded legal organization that works to protect the rights of individuals with disabilities by providing advocacy and legal services. They can be reached at (800) 392-8667 (Toll Free).

RSMo 475.361. RIGHTS OF THE WARD

In every guardianship, the ward has the right to: a guardian who acts in the best interests of the ward and is reasonably accessible to the ward; communicate freely and privately with family, friends, and other persons other than the guardian unless such right is limited by the guardian for good cause, but only as necessary to ensure the ward's condition, safety, habilitation, or sound therapeutic treatment; individually or through the ward's representative or legal counsel, bring an action relating to the guardianship, including the right to file a petition alleging that the ward is being unjustly denied a right or privilege granted by this chapter, including the right to bring an action to modify or terminate the guardianship under the provisions of section 475.083; the least restrictive form of guardianship assistance; to be restored to capacity at the earliest possible time; receive information from the court that describes the ward's rights, including rights the ward may seek by petitioning the court; and participate in any health care decision-making process.