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GUARDIANSHIP SERVICES

(210) 222-1294 | 202 W. French Pl., San Antonio, Texas 78212

Hours of Operation: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The **Guardianship Services** offers legal guardianship services, including less restrictive alternatives, for those who lack mental capacity due to illness or disability, and who are at risk of abuse, neglect and exploitation. With the goal of protecting the most vulnerable in our society by ensuring their safety in the community, the Guardianship Services creates 1/3 of all guardianships established in Bexar County.



How We Help

Since a guardianship takes away a person's rights and cannot easily be undone, Catholic Charities believes it is crucial that less restrictive alternatives are implemented first. Direct guardianship services are only provided as a last resort when all other options have been exhausted and there are no other means of protecting the individual.

Some alternatives to Guardianship are our money management services or referrals to other agencies. Additionally, Catholic Charities offers wills & advanced planning services for anyone who is in need of legal assistance and guidance with life affairs planning, including will preparation and durable powers of attorney.

If available alternatives are not suitable options, then Catholic Charities will establish legal guardianships for qualified individuals and provided case management services to those enrolled.

What is a guardianship? Guardianship is a court appointed relationship between a competent adult (guardian) and an incapacitated person (ward). The Texas Probate Code defines an incapacitated adult as a person who because of a physical or mental condition is substantially unable to: provide for him/herself food, clothing, and shelter; care for their own physical health; or manage their own financial affairs.

Who can be a guardian? A guardian can be a family member, close friend, or volunteer who is appointed by a probate judge to manage affairs and make decisions regarding health and benefits of the Ward, to safeguard their wellbeing, and to provide a safe environment.

Who qualifies for our program?

Individuals interested in becoming a legal guardian of an incapacitated adult must be over the age of 18 and are required to pass a criminal background check to qualify for guardianship services. Guardianship services are offered in Atascosa, Bandera, Bexar, Comal, Frio, Gillespie, Guadalupe, Kames, Kendall, Kerr, Medina, and Wilson counties.

Interested in becoming a volunteer?

Volunteer court monitors assess individuals who have been placed under a guardianship (wards) and whose care is the responsibility of legal guardians. Court monitors act as the eyes and ears of the Probate Court by providing them with first-hand information regarding individuals for whom the Court has the ultimate responsibility. Volunteers schedule their own appointments and travel to nursing homes, group homes, assisted living facilities, foster homes, or private homes to visit with wards and check on their wellbeing.

The benefits to volunteering as a court monitor include:

- Flexible volunteer hours;
- Mileage reimbursement;
- Receive trainings and support from program staff; and
- Experience working in a legal court monitoring program.

Volunteers must pass a criminal background check, attend required trainings; be reliable and provide their own transportation.

For more information about volunteering with the Guardianship Services, call Paul Stevens, volunteer coordinator, at (210) 222-1294 today!

OUR PROGRAMS:

Adolescent Pregnancy & Parenting Program
Building Strong Families
Brazos Extendidos Counseling Program
Catholic Counseling & Consultation Center
Clothes Closet
Community Voice Mail San Antonio
Emergency Financial Assistance
Food Pantry
Foster Grandparent Program

Great Start Plus
Guadalupe Home
Guardianship Services
Interpreter & Translation Services
Immigration Services
Legal Aid Program
Military Family Relief Project
Money Management Program
Parent Talk

Parish Support Line
Project Cool
Precious Minds, New Connections
Refugee Services
Retired & Senior Volunteer Program
San Antonio Birth Doulas
Volunteer Income Tax Assistance
Wellness & Community Resource Fairs
Wills & Advanced Planning Services

Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of San Antonio, Inc.

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