



Washington's Guardianship Laws Have Changed

EXPIRING LETTERS OF GUARDIANSHIP

Clerks must issue expiring Letters of Guardianship. Letters may be valid for up to five (5) years. Guardians may not act without valid Letters of Guardianship.

NEW FORMS

All *Orders Appointing a Guardian* and *Orders Approving Accounts and Reports* must display a guardianship summary containing: date the guardian was appointed; due date for report and accounting; date of next review; expiring date of letters; bond amount; restricted agreements required; due date for inventory; due date for care plan; and name and contact information for the incapacitated person, the guardian and all interested parties.

NEW DEADLINES

- Mandatory training must be completed within 90 days of appointment.
- Within 90 days of appointment, the guardian of the person and/or estate must notify all individuals identified by the court of their right to request special notice.
- Guardian of the person and/or estate must file a notice naming a standby guardian within 90 days of appointment.
- Guardian of the estate must file a final report within 90 days of the date of termination of guardianship or termination of appointment.
- The court shall review intermediate accounts or reports within 120 days of the anniversary date of appointment.

MANDATORY TRAINING

- Current guardians must complete mandatory, free training prior to filing intermediate account or report.
- Potential guardians must complete mandatory, free training prior to appointment or under certain circumstances within 90 days of appointment. This training can be found at the web address below.

NEW HEARING

The court is authorized to set a hearing within 90 days of a guardian's appointment to review the incapacitated person's initial care plan.

GUARDIANS CAN BE SANCTIONED

If a guardian fails to file the intermediate report or account, or fails to appear at a review hearing, the court has the authority to schedule a contempt hearing; appoint a guardian ad litem; require the guardian to attend training; remove the guardian; appoint a successor guardian; or take other action as the court deems just and equitable.

For general information contact your local court. For specific information about Mandatory Training, call 360.704.4081 or email LayGuardianTraining@courts.wa.gov.

Beginning July 22, 2011, mandatory, free training can be found online at www.courts.wa.gov/layguardiantraining.