



## Washington's Guardianship Laws Have Changed as of 2011

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| <p><b><u>Expiring Letters of Guardianship</u></b></p> <p>Clerks must issue expiring Letters of Guardianship.</p> <p>Letters may be valid for up to five (5) years. Guardians may not act without valid Letters of Guardianship.</p> <p><b><u>New Hearing</u></b></p> <p>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.</p> <p><b><u>Guardians Can Be Sanctioned</u></b></p> <p>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.</p> | <p><b><u>New Forms</u></b></p> <p>All Orders Appointing a Guardian and Orders Approving Accounts and Reports must display a guardianship summary containing: date guardian 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.</p> <p><b><u>New Deadlines</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Mandatory training must be completed within 90 days of appointment.</li><li>➤ 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.</li><li>➤ Guardian of the person and/or estate must file a notice naming a standby guardian within 90 days of appointment.</li><li>➤ Guardian of the estate must file a final report within 90 days of the termination of guardianship or termination of appointment.</li><li>➤ The court shall review intermediate accounts or reports within 120 days of the anniversary date of appointment.</li></ul> |
| <p><b><u>Mandatory Training</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Current guardians must complete mandatory, free training prior to filling intermediate account or reports.</li><li>➤ Potential guardians must complete mandatory, free training prior to appointment or under certain circumstances within 90 days of appointment.</li><li>➤ Mandatory training began July 22, 2011</li><li>➤ Mandatory training can be found online at <a href="http://www.courts.wa.gov/layGuardiantraining">www.courts.wa.gov/layGuardiantraining</a></li><li>➤ For specific information about Mandatory Training, call Kim Rood at 360.704.4081 or email <a href="mailto:layguardiantraining@courts.wa.gov">layguardiantraining@courts.wa.gov</a></li></ul>  |  |

If you have questions or concerns regarding the online Lay Guardian Training in Snohomish County, please contact:  
Snohomish County Superior Court Administration

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