

## Guardianship Orders

### What is a guardianship order?

A **guardianship order** is when a **Tribunal** picks somebody to help you make decisions.

A **Tribunal** hearing is not as formal as a court hearing.

### When can a guardianship order be made?

- You are 18 years old or older.
- You have had an assessment which says that you need help making some decisions.
- There is a risk to your health, safety or belongings.
- Your interests will be hurt if you don't have a guardian.

### How will I know to go to the Tribunal?

You will be sent a letter.

The letter will tell you the time and place of the **hearing**.

A **hearing** is when the Tribunal listens to why there should be an order.

### **Can I talk at the hearing?**

You can go to the hearing.

You can ask questions.

You can ask to have a lawyer or other person there to help you.

However, the hearing is informal and lawyers are usually not there.

You might need a good reason why you need a lawyer there.

You can also have an interpreter if you need one.

If you don't attend the hearing, the Tribunal can still hold the hearing and make a decision about whether you need a guardian.

### **When will I know what the Tribunal decides?**

The Tribunal will tell you at the **hearing** or send you a copy of the order.

### **Can my guardianship order be changed?**

The Tribunal must look at your order every 3 years.

You can also ask the Tribunal to look at your order whenever you want.

Often reviews happen without a hearing and you can't go.

If you want to have another hearing you need to make a new application.

### **Changes to the law**

The law about guardianship is being looked at.

The law might change soon.