

A ward retains all the rights, benefits, responsibilities, and privileges granted by the constitution and laws of this state and the United States, except where specifically limited by a Court-ordered Guardianship or were otherwise lawfully restricted. Unless limited by a Court or otherwise restricted by law, a ward is authorized to the following:

1. to have a copy of the guardianship order and letters of guardianship and contact information for the probate court that issued the order and letters;

2. to have a guardianship that encourages the development or maintenance of maximum self-reliance and independence in the ward with the eventual goal, if possible, of self-sufficiency;

3. to be treated with respect, consideration, and recognition of the ward's dignity and individuality;

4. to reside and receive support services in the most integrated setting, including home-based or other community-based settings, as required by Title II of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act;

5. to consideration of the ward's current and previously stated personal preferences, desires, medical and psychiatric treatment preferences, religious beliefs, living arrangements, and other preferences and opinions;

6. to financial self-determination for all public benefits after essential living expenses and health needs are met and to have access to a monthly personal allowance;

7. to receive timely and appropriate health care and medical treatment that does not violate the ward's rights granted by the constitution and laws of Texas and the United States;

8. to exercise full control of all aspects of life not specifically granted by the court to the guardian;

9. to control the ward's personal environment based on the ward's preferences;

10. to complain or raise concerns regarding the guardian or guardianship to the court, including living arrangements, retaliation by the guardian, conflicts of interest between the guardian and service providers, or a violation of any rights under the bill;

11. to receive notice in the ward's native language, or preferred mode of communication, and in a manner accessible to the ward, of a court proceeding to continue, modify, or terminate the guardianship and the opportunity to appear before the court to express the ward's preferences and concerns regarding whether the

guardianship should be continued, modified, or terminated;

12. to have a court investigator, guardian ad litem, or attorney ad litem appointed by the court to investigate a complaint received by the court from the ward or any person about the guardianship;

13. to participate in social, religious, and recreational activities, training, employment, education, habilitation, and rehabilitation of the ward's choice in the most integrated setting;

14. to self-determination in the substantial maintenance, disposition, and management of real and personal property after essential living expenses and health needs are met, including the right to receive notice and object about the substantial maintenance, disposition, or management of clothing, furniture, vehicles, and other personal effects;

15. to personal privacy and confidentiality in personal matters, subject to state and federal law;

16. to unimpeded, private, and uncensored communication and visitation with persons of the ward's choice, except that if the guardian determines that certain communication or visitation causes substantial harm to the ward the guardian may limit, supervise, or restrict communication or visitation, but only to the extent necessary to protect the ward from substantial harm, and the ward may request a hearing to remove any such restrictions on communication or visitation imposed by the guardian;

17. to petition the court and retain certified counsel of the ward's choice to represent the ward's interest for capacity restoration, modification of the guardianship, the appointment of a different guardian, or for other appropriate relief, including a transition to a supported decision-making agreement, except as otherwise limited;

18. to vote in a public election, marry, and retain a license to operate a motor vehicle, unless restricted by the court;

19. to personal visits from the guardian or the guardian's designee at least once every three months, but more often, if necessary, unless the court orders otherwise;

20. to be informed of the name, address, phone number, and purpose of Disability Rights Texas and to communicate and meet with representatives of that organization;

21. to be informed of the name, address, phone number, and purpose of an independent living center, an area agency on aging, an aging and disability resource center, and the local mental health and intellectual and

developmental disability center, and to communicate and meet with representatives from these agencies and organizations;

22. to be informed of the name, address, phone number and purpose of the Judicial Branch Certification Commission and the procedure for filing a complaint against a certified guardian;

23. to contact the Department of Family and Protective Services to report abuse, neglect or exploitation, or violation of personal rights without fear of punishment, interference, coercion or retaliation; and

24. to have the guardian, on appointment and on annual renewal of the guardianship, explain the rights delineated in this subsection in the ward's native language, or preferred mode of communication, and in a manner accessible to the ward.

25. To make decisions related to sexual assault crisis services, including consenting to a forensic medical examination and treatment, authorizing the collection of forensic evidence, consenting to the release of evidence contained in an evidence collection kit and disclosure of related confidential information, and receiving counseling and other support services; and

26. to have private communications with the ward's physicians or other medical professionals, unless the court, after a hearing requested by the ward's guardian, orders the private communications to be limited due to:

(A) the risk of substantial harm to the ward;
or

(B) the communications being unduly burdensome to the physician or medical professional.

This bill of rights does not replace or repeal other remedies you have under the law.

Disability Rights Texas

Disability Rights Texas is the federally designated legal protection and advocacy agency (P&A) for people with disabilities in Texas. Our mission is to help people with disabilities understand and exercise their rights under the law, ensuring their full and equal participation in society.
disabilityrightstx.org

Main Office Headquarters

2222 West Braker Lane
Austin, Texas 78758
1 (512) 454-4816(Voice)
1 (512) 323-0902(Fax)
1 (866) 362-2851(Video Phone)

Toll-Free Intake Line for New Callers 1 (800) 252-9108

Monday through Friday, 9 am - 4 pm

Statewide VIDEO Toll Free Phone Line 1 (866) 362-2851

Toll-Free Phone Line for Current Clients 1 (800) 315-3876

**Area Agency on Aging serving Denton County
Texoma Council of Governments**

The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) is a voluntary association of, by and for local governments, and was established to assist local governments in planning for common needs, cooperating for mutual benefit, and coordinating for sound regional development. NCTCOG's purpose is to strengthen both the individual and collective power of local governments and to help them recognize regional opportunities, eliminate unnecessary duplication, and make joint decisions.

nctcog.org

Phone: 1-800-272-3921

Fax: 817-695-9274

North Central Texas Aging & Disability Resource Center

The North Central Texas Aging and Disability Resource Center (NCTADRC) is an inter-agency initiative, funded by a special grant from the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services, and supported by a number of lead and partner agencies. The NCTADRC offers services to professionals, caregivers, and persons with disabilities in fourteen counties in North Central Texas.

nctadrc.org

Email nctadrc@nctcog.org

Call us at 1-877-229-9084 Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Fax number is 817-695-9274.

Mailing address is NCTADRC/NCTAAA, P.O. Box 5888, Arlington, TX 76005-5888

Denton County MHMR Center (Local Authority)

Denton County MHMR Center enhances the quality of life of the individuals served and their family members.

dentonmhmr.org

PO Box 2346

Denton, Texas 76202

940-381-5000

The Judicial Branch Certification Commission (JBCC)

was established by the Texas Legislature, 83rd Regular Session, in Senate Bill 966. The nine member Commission oversees the certification, registration, and licensing of court reporters and court reporting firms, guardians, process servers, and licensed court interpreters, and began operations on September 1, 2014. On that date, the Court Reporters Certification Board, Guardianship Certification Board, and Process Server Review Board concluded, and the Licensed Court Interpreter program at the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) was transferred to the JBCC and Office of Court Administration (OCA).

Physical Address

205 W. 14th, Ste. 600

Austin, TX 78701

Mailing Address

PO Box 12066

Austin, TX 78711-2066

Phone: Main=512-475-4368 Fax = 512-463-1117

Email = guardians@txcourts.gov

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services

dfps.state.tx.us

Submit a report by calling the hotline at 1-800-252-5400 or report online at

<https://www.txabusehotline.org>