

Information

- **Guardianship Tribunal**
- **The NSW Trustee**
- **Office of the Public Guardian**

Three separate organisations working together for people with disabilities

Guardianship Tribunal

The Guardianship Tribunal is a legal tribunal.

It appoints guardians for people with disabilities aged 16 years and over who are incapable of making their own decisions and need a legally appointed substitute decision maker because no appropriate or safe informal arrangements are in place, or for some other reason.

If a guardian needs to be appointed, the Guardianship Tribunal will consider appointing a family member or friend. If this is not appropriate the Tribunal will appoint the Public Guardian.

The Tribunal also appoints financial managers as substitute decision makers for people aged 16 years and over who are incapable of managing their own financial affairs and need a legally appointed substitute decision maker because no appropriate or safe informal arrangements are in place.

If a financial manager needs to be appointed, the Guardianship Tribunal will appoint a family member or friend (subject to the directions of the NSW Trustee) or the NSW Trustee.

The Guardianship Tribunal also consents to medical and dental treatments in certain circumstances for people who are unable to consent for themselves.

The NSW Trustee

When appointed as someone's financial manager, the NSW Trustee can make decisions about their financial affairs and property. Clients of the NSW Trustee include people with a brain injury, intellectual disability, dementia or other disability which affects their decision making. The NSW Trustee relies in part on charging fees to provide services. These services include:

Financial and asset management - A range of financial, legal, technical and disability advice services are provided. These include protecting assets and

legal rights, making investments, managing a business, liaising with financial and legal institutions, facilitating the buying and selling of a home and organising an adequate cash flow to pay bills.

Private management support - Family members, friends, professionals and other individuals or trustee companies can be appointed as a private manager. Authorisation and direction is provided. Services include auditing accounts, preparing a plan of management, and providing managers with the necessary legal authority to manage the person's affairs.

Office of the Public Guardian

When appointed as someone's guardian, the Public Guardian may make decisions on behalf of the person in the areas of decision making identified in the guardianship order. These decision making areas may include accommodation, medical and dental, health care and services.

The Public Guardian is a substitute decision maker, not a substitute caregiver or case manager. A decision made by a legally appointed guardian should be treated as if it were a decision made by the person with the disability.

The Public Guardian will also advocate for the services and support needed by the person under guardianship.

The Public Guardian is the guardian for the length of time specified in the order. At the end of this time a review may be held by the Guardianship Tribunal to decide whether a guardian is still needed.

Private Guardian Support Unit (PGSU)

The PGSU provides free and confidential information and support to people appointed as an enduring guardian or appointed as guardian by the Guardianship Tribunal.

Complaints

Because the Guardianship Tribunal, the Office of the Public Guardian and the NSW Trustee are independent organisations, they do not supervise each other's work.

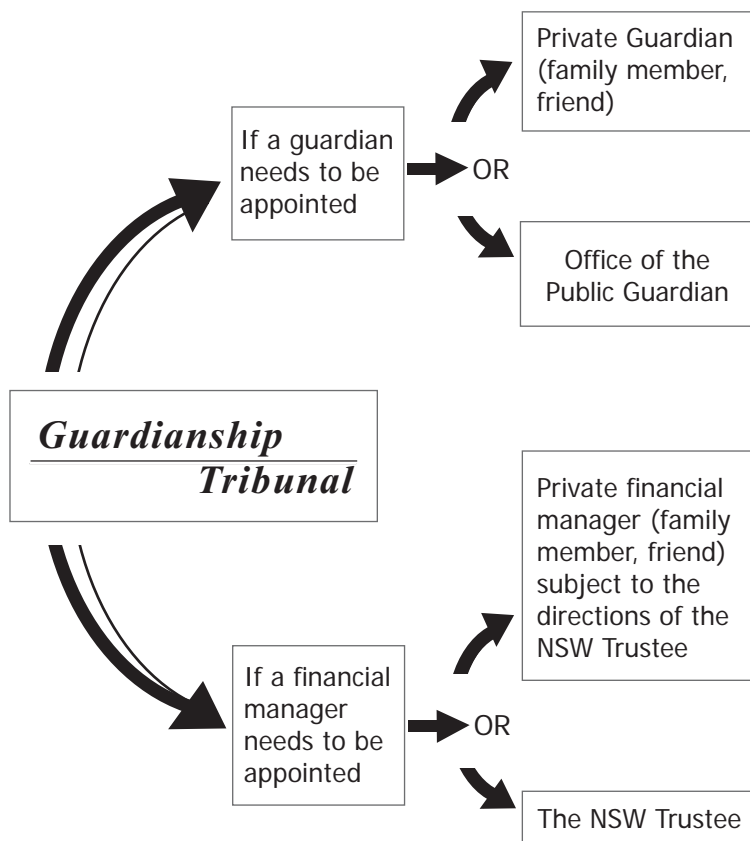
Complaints about the Public Guardian should be directed to the Complaint Support Officer at the Office of the Public Guardian.

Complaints about the NSW Trustee should be directed in writing to the Manager Quality Service and Client Relations at the NSW Trustee.

If you are requesting a review of decision it is helpful to outline why you think the decision is not in the client's best interests.

Complaints about the Guardianship Tribunal should be directed in writing to the Registrar.

Three separate organisations working together for people with disabilities



For more information contact

Guardianship Tribunal

Telephone (02) 9556 7600
Toll free 1800 463 928
Facsimile (02) 9555 9049
Telephone typewriter (02) 9556 7634
Email gt@gt.nsw.gov.au
Website www.gt.nsw.gov.au
Street Address Level 3, 2a Rowntree Street,
Balmain NSW 2041
Postal address Locked Bag 9, Balmain NSW 2041

The NSW Trustee (also known as the NSW Trustee and Guardian)

Telephone (02) 8688 2600
Toll Free 1300 360 466
Facsimile (02) 8688 9783
Telephone Typewriter 1800 882 889
Email opcmail@opc.nsw.gov.au
Website www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/opc
Street Address 160 Marsden Street (near the corner
of George St, Parramatta NSW 2150
Postal address Locked Bag 5115, Parramatta NSW 2124

Office of the Public Guardian

Telephone (02) 8688 2650
Toll free 1800 451 510
Facsimile (02) 8688 9797
Telephone Typewriter 1800 882 889
Email informationsupport@opg.nsw.gov.au
Website www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/opg
Street Address 160 Marsden Street (near the corner
of George St, Parramatta NSW 2150
Postal address Locked Bag 5116, Parramatta NSW 2124

Private Guardian Support Unit

postal/street/web/email as above
Telephone (02) 8688 6060

Sydney branch office street address

Level 2, 83 York Street, Sydney 2000
Telephone (02) 8083 9100
Facsimile (02) 8083 9111

Gosford branch street address

Level 3, 4-6 Watt Street, Gosford 2250
Telephone (02) 4320 4888
Facsimile (02) 4320 4818