



# 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](mailto:LayGuardianTraining@courts.wa.gov).

Beginning July 22, 2011, mandatory, free training can be found online at [www.courts.wa.gov/layguardiantraining](http://www.courts.wa.gov/layguardiantraining).