



Public Policy Statement on Certification



Statement of the Issue

The state has the duty to protect individuals who are unable to make decisions on their own. Under certain circumstances, states utilize court-appointed guardians to fulfill this duty. Guardianship can remove fundamental rights from the individual and bestow significant authority upon a guardian. Even after a guardian is appointed, the state has a continuing duty to ensure the individual's well-being. The potential for harm through the use of unqualified guardians should not be underestimated. The quality of guardianship services is enhanced by the certification of guardians and fiduciaries.

Certification is a means for an individual to demonstrate to the public, clients and the courts that he or she has sufficient knowledge and understanding of the universal guardianship principles to be worthy of the responsibility entrusted to him or her. A credible certification process determines the core competencies a guardian must know, establishes standards for conduct, and imposes consequences for failing to meet those standards.

The Center for Guardianship Certification's mission is to enhance the quality of guardianship services by providing examination and certification of guardians and fiduciaries. A person with the CGC credential has acquired a basic floor of necessary knowledge, demonstrated proficiency in core competencies, continues to enhance his or her skills and understanding, agrees to abide by a code of ethical conduct, and is subject to disciplinary proceedings including de-certification.

CGC stands ready to partner with appropriate state entities to establish voluntary or mandatory certification programs for professional guardians or to incorporate CGC certification into required state policy. Improving protection of the public through certification of guardians should supplement but not supplant other state and court monitoring and oversight processes.

Policy Position

The Center for Guardianship Certification believes:

- Every state must ensure guardians are qualified and exercise the highest degree of trust, loyalty and fidelity.
- The protection of persons with disabilities is enhanced by requiring certification of guardians through a credible credentialing process which includes criteria for initial eligibility and recertification, an examination, continuing education, a code of conduct, and disciplinary proceedings for malfeasance.
- All states should require professional guardians to obtain and maintain CGC certification.
- All guardians should voluntarily obtain and maintain CGC certification.

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