



CHAPMAN
LAW

So Now You Are a Guardian

A Colorado guide for caring for adults and minors under guardianship

Being a guardian is an act of trust and compassion. You play a vital role in protecting another person's well-being, safety, and daily care. This guide is designed to help you understand your responsibilities and make confident decisions—whether you are supporting an adult or a minor.



ADULT GUARDIANSHIP



Inside:
adult guardianship
+
minor
guardianship



MINOR GUARDIANSHIP



Understanding
your authority



Daily care and
decision-making



Records and
court duties



When to
ask for help

Protect. Support. Respect. Document.

Denver Office

7900 E. Union Ave., Suite 1100
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Pueblo Office

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This brochure provides general educational information only and is not legal advice. Reading it does not create an attorney-client relationship. Colorado law changes and every situation is different. You should consult an attorney about your specific circumstances.

Last reviewed: May 2026.



CHAPMAN LAW, PLLC

ESTATE PLANNING

Guardian Guide for Adults & Minors

Helpful guidance for personal care, daily responsibility, and court awareness.



1. Shared responsibilities

- ◆ follow the court order and understand the limits of your authority
- ◆ protect health, safety, and daily well-being
- ◆ keep organized records of important decisions and contacts
- ◆ communicate with family, providers, teachers, or caregivers as appropriate
- ◆ ask for help before major changes or missed deadlines



2A. If you are guardian for an adult

- ◆ learn the adult's wishes, values, routines, and relationships
- ◆ coordinate medical care, living arrangements, and support services
- ◆ encourage independence and the least restrictive approach when possible
- ◆ understand that guardianship is different from conservatorship or financial authority



2B. If you are guardian for a minor

- ◆ provide daily care, housing, school support, and medical care
- ◆ keep school, medical, and emergency information organized
- ◆ understand what role a parent may still have under the court order
- ◆ know when major decisions or changes may require court guidance



3. Common mistakes to avoid

- ◆ assuming authority is broader than it is
- ◆ poor recordkeeping
- ◆ missing deadlines or court requirements
- ◆ failing to communicate with key people
- ◆ confusing guardianship with financial control



4. When to call Chapman Law

- ◆ family disagreement or conflict
- ◆ major care or schooling decisions
- ◆ moving the protected person
- ◆ concerns about court reporting or deadlines
- ◆ questions about the limits of your authority



5. Helpful records to keep

- ◆ court orders and documents
- ◆ contact list (family, providers, school, caregivers)
- ◆ medications, providers, and medical history
- ◆ school information and contacts
- ◆ notes of major decisions and dates

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