



Canyon County
Board of Community Guardians

Annual Report

2024



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Introduction

We are pleased to present the 2024 Annual Report for the Canyon County Board of Community Guardians per Idaho Code Section 15-5-603. We make this report publicly available with the goal of increasing awareness of Canyon County's guardian and conservator program. The Idaho State Supreme Court has authority over guardianship practices in the state of Idaho.



What We Do

The Board of Community Guardians is designed to serve as the guardian and conservator of last resort for individuals whose incapacity impairs their ability to care for themselves. A guardianship also protects and restores the rights of an incapacitated individual who is unable to exercise those rights themselves. The Board of Community Guardians acts in accordance with Idaho law and court rules.

Each guardian/conservator provides ongoing case management including in-person visits, communication with direct service providers, financial case management, medical consents and response to emergency needs.



Board Members & County Staff

2024

New Members

- Melissa Czapiewsk (inactive)
- Nancy Glascock (pet therapy)
- Jayne Josephsen
- Brent Hart

Retired Members

- Joan Colombo
- Lorinda Norton
- Susan Puga
- Lisa Shaddock

Current Members

- Mary Jo Campbell
- Eva Gohr
- Dottie Neher
- Claire Roper (inactive)
- Bailey Wilson

County Staff

- Kellie George
- Jenn Odom
- Yvonne Baker

Mary Jo Campbell

Female - PS

Jayne Josephsen

Female - MR

Female - JP

Dottie Neher

Female - KF

Female - MR

Female - GW

Male - MS

Bailey Wilson

Female - BG

Female - JM

Female - KP

Female - JSB

Male - WK

Female - JM

Eva Gohr

Female - CC

Female - LT

Jenn Odom

Female - PS

Female - TK

Female - AM

Female - EP

Male - KR

Female - RS

Kellie George

Male - RF

Male - RI

Female - HK

Male - GP

Male - MP

Male - MP

Male - RT

Female - RS

Female - TW

Guardian Care

2024

Yvonne Baker

Male - LF

Male - TG

Male - FG

Male - JJ

Female - AM

Male - CR

Male - MB

Referrals Received

16

Referrals Accepted

4

Referrals

Source of Referrals

St. Luke's hospital
St. Alphonsus hospital
Residential Facilities
Adult Protective Services
Neighboring Counties

Reasons for Declining a Referral

- No capacity available with the Board of Community Guardians
- A family or friend has agreed to be the guardian
- Applicant is not a resident of Canyon County
- There is a less restrictive alternative to a guardianship including :
 - voluntary consent to the appointment of a healthcare representative (POA)
 - appointment of a Social Security rep payee

Who we Serve

Clients

as of 1.1.24

34

Referrals Accepted

4

Passed Away

6

Clients

as of 12.31.24

32

Males

13

Females

19

Individuals Experiencing

Cognitive Impairment

Developmental Disabilities

Medical Conditions

Mental Health Diagnosis

Substance Abuse Diagnosis

20-40 years

3

41-60 years

10

61-80 years

14

81+ years

5



Court rules require the appointment of a Court Visitor and Guardian Ad Litem attorney for each case. The purpose of the appointment is to investigate the claims of the petition and to present a report to the court, demonstrating that the person requires guardianship and that no one else is available to serve.

Court Visitors

&

Guardian

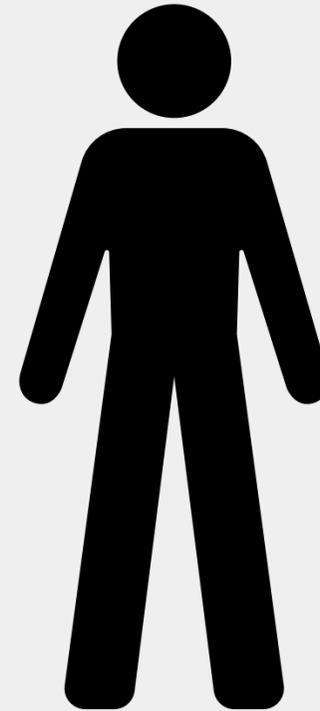
Ad Litem

Attorneys

As of October 1, 2024, the Canyon County's public defense system moved to a new state-funded system. Prior to the change, the Court named an attorney from the Canyon County Public Defender's office as the Guardian Ad Litem attorney for each ward.

In September, 2024, the Board of Community Guardians and the Canyon County Prosecuting Attorney's office worked in tandem to identify and contract with one private attorney and one private attorney firm to provide Guardian Ad Litem services.

Client Services



REFERRALS

- Accept and investigate referral applications
- Review medical and psychiatric records
- Search background, residency & assets
- Meet with patient to discuss guardianship
- Speak with family and friends
- Present referral to BOCG
- Provide resources to hospitals and family re: guardianship or alternatives
- Coordinate legal paperwork with attorneys

CARE & MEDICAL

- Select individual's residence
- Visit with ward
- Ongoing case management
- Response to emergency needs and calls
- Apply for and maintain Medicaid coverage
- Verify other insurance coverage
- Participate in quarterly care conferences
- Ensure medical appointments are met
- Maintain communication with providers
- Ensure Medicaid reevaluation is completed
- Provide consents, approvals and releases

FINANCES

- Apply to be Social Security representative payee
- Coordinate payment of all expenses
- Track and reconcile monthly expenses
- Complete annual rep payee reports
- Ensure funds do not exceed SSI & Medicaid limits
- Participate in Food Stamp reevaluation process
- Protect personal effects and property
- Address and resolve any fraud issues

ESTATE PLANNING

- Coordinate pre-paid burial policy
- Discuss Advanced Directive
- Assist with burial preparations
- Collaborate with coroner/facility
- Coordinate release of funds for Department of Health & Welfare
- Administer estate

ADMINISTRATIVE

- Purchase needed items including food, furniture, clothing and medical equipment
- Engage in Supported Decision-Making
- Food Assistance: food banks and food stamps
- Prepare annual guardianship reports
- Prepare annual conservator reports
- File annual reports with the Courts
- Process Volunteer Board Applications
- Provide orientation for new Board Members

Fiscal Report

BOCG Operating Account

Beginning Balance
\$13,696.94

Revenue
\$6,361.79

Expenses Paid
\$4,279.55

Ending Balance
\$15,779.18

Money Market Account

Beginning Balance
\$14,256.95

Interest Accrued
\$213.41

Ending Balance
\$14,470.36

Client Fiduciary Accounts

Beginning Balance
\$63,777.45

Income Received
\$352,156.55

Expenses Paid
\$377,994.96

Ending Balance
\$37,939.04

System Issues

Recruiting & Retaining Volunteers

Challenges continue but volunteers and staff persevere, serving wards during staff shortages and turnover. Turnover resulted in 4 board members leaving the Board in 2024. The volunteers serving on the Board of Community Guardians give graciously of their time and talent.

However, due to the nature of responsibilities, compassion burnout and time commitment, retaining volunteers has proven to be an ongoing challenge.

Public Guardianship Program

Idaho operates under the Uniform Adult Guardianship and Protective Proceedings Jurisdiction Act but lacks a state-guided and funded public guardianship program for incapacitated adults who cannot afford a legal decision-maker. In addition, not all Idaho counties have a volunteer community guardian program. The existence of a state-funded public guardian office may benefit counties by setting policy for consistency, creating standards for establishing a guardianship and providing ongoing education and support for those serving as guardians.



Goals

Recruit & Retain Volunteers

- Coordinate information booths at local fairs to meet potential volunteers.
- Give presentations to local groups in the health and behavioral health fields.
- Advertise on social media and volunteer websites.

Public Guardianship Program

- Attend educational forums regarding guardianship programs and learn how they operate.
- Expand internal guardianship policies and procedures.
- Continue to gather information regarding state agencies involved in and providing services for guardianship
- Research how other states have formed public guardianship programs.





Alternatives to Guardianship

Supported Decision-Making

Power of Attorney

Representative Payee

Advanced Directive

Trust & Care Agreement

Public Guardianship is a last resort and should be pursued only when there is no other way to meet an individual's needs. A guardianship may result in the removal of an individual's legal rights and restricts their rights to make their own decisions.

The goal of the Court is to maximize a person's self-reliance, independence and decision making regarding their care and residency. However, a person under guardianship is deemed incapacitated by the Court and may not be able to make the choice that serves their best interest, requiring the guardian to act in good faith and make those difficult decisions.



Our Partners

■ Adult Protective Services Area 3 - Idaho Commission on Aging

■ First Interstate Bank

■ Idaho Department of Health & Welfare - Long Term Care

■ Idaho Medicaid Planning

■ Idaho Supreme Court - Janet Caufield

■ Miller Law PLLC

■ CK Quade Law

■ Senior Health Solutions (Medicare)

■ Social Security Administration - Caldwell Office

THANK YOU!

Conclusion

Good guardianship involves treating persons subject to guardianship with dignity, involving them in the decision-making process and maximizing their autonomy. A guardian's actions will be open to scrutiny at all times, which leads to the need to recruit strong board members and advocates who act responsibly and appropriately to meet the needs of others. The Canyon County Board of Community Guardians and administrative staff are committed to this philosophy as it grows to meet the demands of public guardianship. We welcome any questions or requests for information on how to be involved. Volunteering can be an incredibly rewarding experience!

Canyon County
Board of Community Guardians

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