

# Virginia Judicial System Court Self-Help

Resources for Self-Represented Litigants

[selfhelp.vacourts.gov](http://selfhelp.vacourts.gov)

---



## Guardianship & Conservatorship

### **What is Guardianship & Conservatorship?**

A guardian is a person appointed by the court who is responsible for the personal affairs of an incapacitated person. A guardian is responsible for making decisions regarding the incapacitated person's support, care, health, safety, habilitation, education, therapeutic treatment, and if not inconsistent with an order of commitment, residence. A conservator is a person appointed by the court who is responsible for managing the estate and financial affairs of an incapacitated person. Either a conservator or guardian may be full, limited, or temporary, depending upon the court's order. The person being cared for is called the "ward."

### **Which court hears these cases?**

The Circuit Court.

### **Where can I get more information about Guardianship & Conservatorship?**

The Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia has published the following documents:

#### **Links:**

[Guardianship and Conservatorship Proceedings Regarding Incapacitated Adults](#)  
[Instructions to Conservators of Incapacitated People](#)

---

Printed: November 29, 2016

<http://selfhelp.vacourts.gov/node/19/guardianship-conservatorship>

©Virginia Judicial System Court Self-Help