

Guardianship Roundtable – July 15, 2025

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What does guardianship mean?

- Someone else in control of someone's life
- In IL movement, guardianship shouldn't happen
- One of the most absurd systems
- People with no vested interest making the decisions
- Needs to be info on alternatives

Are there ever times when guardianship is appropriate?

- Nursing homes are often the ones forcing Guardianship
- Big distinction when someone can advocate for themselves when given the chance

Alternatives

- Don't know what they are
- Focus on getting info to day programs at schools
- Reinforce the right to make decisions
- Allow advocates at all ages
- Make sure guardians/those in guardianships aren't pressured into it
- Need to make it easier to terminate guardianship; people with disabilities are often excluded from the conversation
- The people who are impacted by guardianships should have the biggest voice in the process

Taking Public Comment on Guardianships

- It's frustrating that it doesn't feel like community and to not see where this is going; feels like a waste of time; participants are wanting to be heard
- Existence of guardianships could be impacted by building a community
- Need to be in person meetings

- Don't cut mics
 - Let people speak
 - Recognize the speakers' needs
- Can't inform people of guardianship alternatives if there is no community to hear the voices of those affected
- INSILC needs to be a liaison between the public and the state; INSILC shouldn't act as a gatekeeper
- Need to let people know of alternatives
- Never talked about trying to teach DM
- Follow through with commitments!
- Follow the state plan!
- What happened to the phase out
- Shouldn't have a loophole to allow guardianships even as last resort

Who pushes Guardianships?

- Case managers, schools, medical community
- Case loads also lead to push to make easier