Utah's Guardianship Bill of Rights

Texas and a few other states have put the basic rights of a person with a guardian into law. Utah has done the same.

*Before I have a guardian, I have a right to:*

- My own lawyer
- Learn about ways I can get help making choices, decisions, or managing the supports I need without a guardian
- Understand what guardianship means, and what a guardian can and cannot do
- Ask someone else – like a doctor, teacher, coworker, or friend – to tell the judge what they know about what I like, what I want to do, what I am good at, and where I need help
- See all the information the judge has to help them decide if a guardianship or a change is needed

*If I have a guardian, I have a right to:*

- My own lawyer
- Make all choices and decisions – including marriage, work, driving, and travel – except the ones the judge specifically says my guardian can make
- Be treated fairly and with respect and dignity
- Privacy, including around phone calls, mail, and visitors
- Help make a plan for my money, the things I own, where I live, and the supports I need
- Have my own bank account and choose how to spend money from work
- Be as independent as possible and help decide where and how I live
- Healthcare that does not violate my rights
- Be listened to about medical treatment and my religious beliefs

*If there is a problem, I have a right to:*

- My own lawyer
- Ask questions or complain to the judge. I can also ask the judge to make my guardian do the things above
- Ask the judge to look at what my guardian does or make sure they are not spending too much money
• Ask the judge to decide if my guardianship should be changed or stopped

If you believe any of your rights under these provisions were violated, you can contact the Disability Law Center.
The Disability Law Center (DLC) is a private, non-profit organization, designated by the governor as Utah's Protection and Advocacy agency. The DLC believes in a society where abilities, rather than disabilities, are recognized; all people have an equal opportunity to participate; and where all people are treated with equity, dignity, and respect. We work toward our vision by enforcing and advancing the legal rights, choices, and opportunities of Utahns with disabilities. DLC services are available free of charge statewide, regardless of income, legal status, language, or place of residence.

If you have further questions, please contact us. Even though our focus is on cases that can help as many people as possible - because time and resources are limited - we at least offer information and/or referral options to everyone who contacts us. Materials are also available in alternative formats such as audio, large-print, Braille and Spanish. Call (800) 662-9080 or apply for help online, and our staff will contact you within 1-3 business days.

View this Resource Online
https://disabilitylawcenter.org/?p=7831