

Guardianship Tip Sheet

Roles of the Family:

- Be proactive and prepare for guardianship prior to your child turning 18

Medicaid Eligible:

- Open case with CMH
- Explore utilizing alternatives to guardianship first (power of attorney, patient advocate, special needs trust, Able Act account, payeeship through social security)
- If guardianship is needed, request a psych and social work evaluation from CMH at 17 ½ years of age
- Provide an annual physical or report from the doctor
- Choose a guardian and stand-by guardian
- CMH submits paperwork to resident county Probate Court

Not Eligible for Medicaid:

- CMH case can only be opened after 18
- Explore utilizing alternatives to guardianship first (power of attorney, patient advocate, special needs trust, Able Act account, payeeship through social security)
- If guardianship is needed, request a psych evaluation from a private, community psychologist at 17 ½ years of age (will require out of pocket cost)
- Provide an annual physical or report from the doctor
- Choose a guardian and stand-by guardian
- Submit petition to resident county Probate Court and report to accompany petition (may require out of pocket cost)
- Attend Court Date
- FAMILIES ALWAYS HAVE THE RIGHT TO CONSULT LEGAL COUNSEL

Roles of the School:

- Can assist in helping parents complete the petition for guardianship
- Can assist parents with adjoining guardianship paperwork
- Can provide families and students with local contact information regarding guardianship

Contact Information:

North Country Community Mental Health	<i>Access Center(800) 834-3393</i>
Department of Human Services	<i>(231) 348-1600</i>
Patricia Theobald- Antrim County Probate Register	<i>(231)533-3628</i>
Donna Rogers- Antrim County Deputy Probate Register	<i>(231)533-6681</i>
Heather McCulley-Charlevoix Probate Court	<i>(231) 547-7214</i>
Debra Niswander-Emmet Probate Court	<i>(231) 348-1707</i>