

EASY READ

# Welfare guardianship



# About welfare guardians

The law says if you cannot make your own decisions you can have a **welfare guardian**.

A welfare guardian makes big decisions for you. They can decide things like where you live, who looks after you or how you spend your money.

Your family, carers, or social workers can apply to be your welfare guardian. A court must decide who should be your welfare guardian.

## Help for welfare guardians

It is the Mental Welfare Commission's job to check that your welfare guardian makes the best decisions for you.

The Commission can also give advice to welfare guardians who have to make hard decisions.

## The Mental Welfare Commission visits people with welfare guardians

Someone from the Mental Welfare Commission might visit you to find out if your welfare guardian is doing their best for you.

## You say who will be with you when the Mental Welfare Commission visits you

You can meet the Commission on your own or you can have someone else with you. You can ask a friend, your carer, guardian or advocate. They will meet you in private.



## What happens when the Mental Welfare Commission visits

The person who visits will try to find out if you are happy about the decisions your welfare guardian has made for you. He or she will also ask if you get help to make some of your own decisions. They will also talk with you about your rights.

## What can the Mental Welfare Commission do if you are unhappy

The Mental Welfare Commission can investigate and try to make things better. If they are unable to make things better they will explain to you why.

## Other people who can help you

Office of the Public Guardian  
Hadrian House  
Callander Business Park  
Falkirk  
FK1 1XR  
**01324 678300**  
[www.publicguardian-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.publicguardian-scotland.gov.uk)

Scottish Executive Justice Department  
Civil Law Division  
Floor 2 West (rear)  
St Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG  
**0131 244 2193**  
[www.scotland.gov.uk/justice/incapacity](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/justice/incapacity)

# Get in touch



Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland  
Thistle House  
91 Haymarket Terrace  
Edinburgh  
EH12 5HE



Freephone: **0800 389 6809**  
Office: **0131 313 8777**

# Stay in touch

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- Mental health service users or carers

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*which language?* \_\_\_\_\_

**I agree to join the Mental Welfare Commission mailing list.**

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