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## GUARDIANSHIP

### 1. What will work best for my family?

\*Consult with us about your vision for future care for your family member. We can then help you with guardianship, trusts, wills, or whatever you need to support that plan. We can also give tips and information about SSI and other resources that might apply to your family. We have personal experience with family members with disabilities, and can help you sort through various options.

### 2. Is it important for my adult child to have a legal guardian?

\*Does that adult child need someone to make their decisions? If so, a guardianship may be necessary.

### 3. Are there alternatives to guardianship that might make sense?

\*Powers of attorney, trusts, representative payees, and ABLE accounts might all be viable alternatives. We can consult with you to determine what will work best for your family. Sometimes a guardianship is the best step because it is comprehensive.

### 4. What is the process for obtaining a guardianship?

\*Guardianship is a court process involving a Guardian Ad Litem, a medical report, and a court hearing. If we are helping you with your guardianship, we will give you an overview at the beginning and then guide you through each step. We have done many guardianships and have a streamlined process. We charge flat fees and allow payment plans. It is ideal to start the guardianship process about 4 months prior to the individual's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, but we can start it at any time thereafter.

### 5. What are the options for guardianship when I am no longer able to serve as a guardian?

\*We will talk through this as well. You might consider other family members or friends, or you may turn to a professional guardian.

6. How do trusts and guardianship work together to make a future plan for my family?

\*A special needs trust is essential for future planning. The trust will protect an individual's benefits and will allow you to designate the money manager.

7. Once a guardianship is established, how do I complete the required court reports?

\*You need to keep good financial records and meet court timelines. Our office helps many, many individuals with their annual or triennial court reports. We charge low, flat fees. Please contact us if you would like us to help you with your report.

8. How do I get started?

\*Please just contact us at your convenience.