



**Guardians of Northeast Iowa Inc**

Serving Others

## Essential Duties of a Legal Guardian in Iowa

Iowa Code §633.635(2) allows the guardian to perform the following duties:

### **Without Court Approval**

1. Making decisions regarding the care, maintenance, health, education, welfare, and safety of the protected person except as otherwise limited by the court;
2. Establishing the protected person's residence;
3. Taking reasonable care of the protected person's clothing, furniture, vehicle, and other personal effects, and companion animals, assistive animals, assistance animals, and service animals;
4. Assisting the protected person in developing maximum self-reliance and independence;
5. Consenting to and arranging for medical, dental, and other health care treatment and services for the protected person;
6. Consenting to and arranging for other needed professional services for the protected person;
7. Consenting to and arranging for appropriate training, educational, and vocational services for the protected person;
8. Maintaining contact, including through regular visitation with the protected person if the protected person does not reside with the guardian;
9. Making reasonable efforts to identify and facilitate supportive relationships and interactions of the protected person with family members and significant other persons;
10. The guardian may place reasonable time, place, or manner restrictions on communication, visitation, or interaction between the adult protected person and another person;
11. Any other powers or duties the court may specify.



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**Iowa Code §633.635(3) allows the guardian to perform the following duties:**

### **With Court Approval**

1. Changing, at the guardian's request the protected person's permanent residence to a nursing home, other secure facility, or secure portion of the facility that restricts the protected person's ability to leave or have visitors, unless advance notice of the change was included in the guardian's initial care plan that was approved by the court. In an emergency situation, the court shall review the request for approval on an expedited basis.
2. Consenting to the following:
  - a. The withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining procedures from the protected person
  - b. The performance of an abortion on the protected person.
  - c. The sterilization of the protected person.
  - d. Denying all communication, visitation, or interaction by a protected person with a person with whom the protected person has expressed a desire to communicate, visit, or interact or with a person who seeks to communicate, visit, or interact with the protected person. A court shall approve the denial of all communication, visitation, or interaction with another person only upon a showing of good cause by the guardian.

### **ADULTS HAVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE THEIR OWN DECISIONS – INCLUDING BAD ONES!**

A guardian cannot force someone to

- Eat healthy foods or exercise
- Take their medications
- Cooperate with service providers

A guardian cannot stop

- Aggressive, violent, or self-harming behavior
- Taking things that belong to others
- Consensual sexual activity
- Staying up late, sleeping late, skipping work or school, etc.
- Smoking, alcohol use, drug use