



Guidance Carolina

Providing person-centered financial and
healthcare decision-making support since 1979.

OUR GUARDIANSHIP PHILOSOPHY

At Guidance Carolina we believe that the work we do is important and that the spirit in which we carry out our services affects more than just those individuals we serve. We are committed to ensuring that our practices reflect the core person-centered values of individuality, independence, privacy, partnership, choice, dignity, respect, and rights. We actively promote an approach that respects and values the personal worth and unique strengths of every individual. These core values serve as Guidance Carolina's foundation and represent what we believe in, what we stand for, and how we approach everything we do.

At Guidance Carolina, we recognize that guardianship has a profound impact on the people subject to it, as well as on their families and communities. Guardianship should never be contemplated without first giving full consideration to the alternatives. In cases in which all alternatives have been explored and guardianship is found to be the most appropriate option, we ensure that our clients have a stable and supportive lifestyle within the least restrictive environment.

As Guardian of the Person, Guardian of the Estate, and General Guardian, our staff is committed to:

- *Recognize each individual's right to direct their own life.*
- *Support each individual in developing self-determination and communication skills.*
- *Use and build natural support networks.*
- *Incorporate the wishes and needs of the individual into the decision-making process, rather than focusing solely on protection.*
- *Maximize the individual's dignity, autonomy, and independence.*

ALTERNATIVES TO GUARDIANSHIP

Guidance Carolina provides decision-making assistance services that can be utilized as an alternative to guardianship. We encourage the use of these services whenever possible to avoid guardianship. Our alternatives to guardianship services include:

- Power-of-Attorney – Financial and Healthcare
- Special Needs Trusts
- Representative Payee
- Private Care Management