



BEXAR COUNTY PROBATE COURT #1  
Oscar J. Kazen, Judge  
(210) 335-2546

BEXAR COUNTY PROBATE COURT #2  
Veronica Vasquez, Judge  
(210) 335-2678

Bexar County Courthouse  
100 Dolorosa Street  
San Antonio, Texas 78205

### **RIGHTS OF WARDS**

Texas Estates Code, Section 1151.351  
Effective June 19, 2015

**Unless limited by a Court or otherwise restricted by law, a Ward is authorized to the following:**

1. to have a copy of the guardianship order and letters of guardianship and contact information for the probate court that issued the order and letters;
2. to have a guardianship that encourages the development or maintenance of maximum self-reliance and independence in the ward with the eventual goal, if possible, of self-sufficiency;
3. to be treated with respect, consideration, and recognition of the ward's dignity and individuality;
4. to reside and receive support services in the most integrated setting, including home-based or other community-based settings, as required by Title II of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act;
5. to consideration of the ward's current and previously stated personal preferences, desires, medical and psychiatric treatment preferences, religious beliefs, living arrangements, and other preferences and opinions;
6. to financial self-determination for all public benefits after essential living expenses and health needs are met and to have access to a monthly personal allowance;
7. to receive timely and appropriate health care and medical treatment that does not violate the ward's rights granted by the constitution and laws of Texas and the United States;

8. to exercise full control of all aspects of life not specifically granted by the court to the guardian;
9. to control the ward's personal environment based on the ward's preferences;
10. to complain or raise concerns regarding the guardian or guardianship to the court, including living arrangements, retaliation by the guardian, conflicts of interest between the guardian and service providers, or a violation of any rights under the bill;
11. to receive notice in the ward's native language, or preferred mode of communication, and in a manner accessible to the ward, of a court proceeding to continue, modify or terminate the guardianship and the opportunity to appear before the court to express the ward's preferences and concerns regarding whether the guardianship should be continued, modified, or terminated;
12. to have a court investigator, guardian ad litem, or attorney ad litem appointed by the court to investigate a complaint received by the court from the ward or any person about the guardianship;
13. to participate in social, religious, and recreational activities, training, employment, education, habilitation, and rehabilitation of the ward's choice in the most integrated setting;
14. to self-determination in the substantial maintenance, disposition, and management of real and personal property after essential living expenses and health needs are met, including the right to receive notice and object about the substantial maintenance, disposition, or management of clothing, furniture, vehicles, and other personal effects;
15. to personal privacy and confidentiality in personal matters, subject to state and federal law;
16. to unimpeded, private, and uncensored communication and visitation with persons of the ward's choice, except that if the guardian determines that certain communication or visitation causes substantial harm to the ward the guardian may limit, supervise, or restrict communication or visitation, but only to the extent necessary to protect the ward from substantial harm, and the ward may request a hearing to remove any such restrictions on communication or visitation imposed by the guardian;
17. to petition the court and retain certified counsel of the ward's choice to represent the ward's interest for capacity restoration, modification of the guardianship, the appointment of a different guardian, or for other appropriate relief, including a transition to a supported decision-making agreement, except as otherwise limited;
18. to vote in a public election, marry, and retain a license to operate a motor vehicle, unless restricted by the court;

19. to personal visits from the guardian or the guardian's designee at least once every three months, but more often if necessary, unless the court orders otherwise;
20. to be informed of the name, address, phone number, and purpose of Disability Rights Texas and to communicate and meet with representatives of that organization;

Disability Rights Texas  
6800 Park Ten Blvd, Suite 208-N  
San Antonio, Texas 78213  
(800) 880-8401  
[www.disabilityrightstx.org](http://www.disabilityrightstx.org)

21. to be informed of the name, address, phone number, and purpose of an independent living center, an area agency on aging, an aging and disability resource center, and the local mental health and intellectual and developmental disability center, and to communicate and meet with representatives from these agencies and organizations;

Center on Independent Living  
12414 Nacogdoches Road, Suite 150  
San Antonio, Texas 78217  
(210) 655-2333  
Coil.org

Alamo Area Council of Government  
Bexar Area Agency on Aging  
8700 Tesoro Drive, Suite 700  
(210) 477-3275  
(800) 960-5201  
[Bexar.aging@aacog.com](mailto:Bexar.aging@aacog.com)

Alamo Area Resource Center  
303 N. Frio  
San Antonio, Texas 78207  
(210) 625-7200  
(800) 308-2437  
[www.aarcsa.com](http://www.aarcsa.com)

Center for Health Care Services  
3031 IH 10 West  
San Antonio, Texas 78201  
(210) 261-1000  
(210) 223-7233 Crisis Hotline

22. to be informed of the name, address, phone number and purpose of the Judicial Branch Certification Commission and the procedure for filing a complaint against a certified guardian;

Judicial Branch Certification Commission  
205 West 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 600  
Austin, Texas 78701  
P.O. Box 12066  
Austin, Texas 78711  
(512) 475-4368  
[jbcc@txcourts.gov](mailto:jbcc@txcourts.gov)

23. to contact the Department of Family and Protective Services to report abuse, neglect or exploitation, or violation of personal rights without fear of punishment, interference, coercion or retaliation,

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services  
(800) 252-5400 Texas Abuse Hotline

and

24. to have the guardian, on appointment and on annual renewal of the guardianship, explain the rights of the ward in the ward's native language, or preferred mode of communication, and in a manner accessible to the ward.