



## **How National Guardianship Association Standards 5, 9, and 10 Guide Professional Guardianship**

The [National Guardianship Association Standards of Practice](#) establish ethical and professional expectations for guardianship practice. The following overview highlights Standards 5, 9, and 10, which address professional collaboration, self-determination, and respect for diversity and personal preferences.

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### **NGA Standard 5**

#### **The Guardian's Relationship With Other Professionals and Providers of Service**

This standard emphasizes collaboration between guardians and professionals involved in the individual's care, including attorneys, healthcare providers, financial professionals, and social service agencies.

Guardians are expected to communicate clearly and timely, share relevant information appropriately, respect confidentiality, and monitor the quality of services provided. Effective collaboration helps ensure coordinated care, informed decision making, and accountability across the care team.

#### **Why this matters in legal practice**

Strong professional collaboration supports transparency, reduces risk, and promotes defensible decision making in guardianship matters.

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### **NGA Standard 9**

#### **Self-Determination**

Standard 9 affirms that individuals under guardianship retain the right to participate in decisions affecting their lives. Guardians are expected to encourage independence, support decision making when possible, and involve individuals in both daily and significant life choices.

Guardianship should be structured to preserve autonomy and avoid unnecessary restrictions while still providing appropriate protection.

**Why this matters in legal practice**

This standard aligns guardianship with least restrictive principles and evolving legal frameworks that emphasize supported decision making and individual rights.

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## **NGA Standard 10**

### **Diversity and Personal Preferences**

This standard requires guardians to respect and incorporate an individual's cultural background, beliefs, values, identity, and personal preferences into all aspects of care and decision making.

Guardians should avoid assumptions or bias and ensure services and decisions reflect the individual as a whole person, not solely their needs or limitations.

**Why this matters in legal practice**

Culturally responsive decision making supports ethical practice, protects civil rights, and reduces the likelihood of conflict or contested issues in guardianship cases.