

What to expect at a hearing

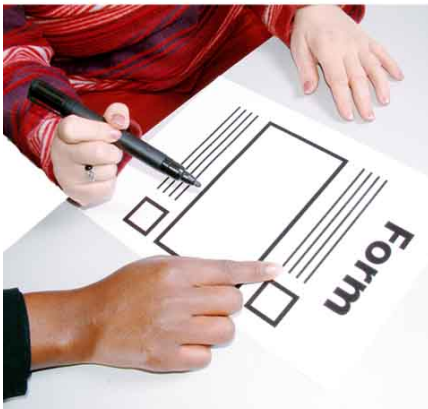
Easy Read version



Guardianship Division



You have the right to make choices
in your life



If someone thinks you need help to
make choices due to your disability
they can apply for guardianship



A group of experts will make a
decision

These people are called the
Tribunal

The hearing



A **hearing** is when the Tribunal meets to make decisions about a person with a disability

Most hearings are run by 3 people



- A lawyer
- A person who works with people with disability
- A person who knows about people with disability

The hearings are not formal like a court

People are made to feel comfortable

Where are the hearings held?



Most hearings are held in Sydney

Some hearings are held in other parts of NSW like Newcastle or Wollongong



You will get a letter telling you about the hearing



The letter will tell you

- The date of the hearing
- The time of the hearing
- The place of the hearing



Do I have to go to the hearing?



You should go to the hearing if you can

The hearing is about you



Important decisions will be made about you and your rights

It is important you get to have your say



If you do not go, the hearing might happen without you having a say

What if I cannot go?



If you cannot go to the hearing you must ring the Tribunal and tell the staff



The staff can help you to ring or use video conference for the hearing

Who goes to the hearing?



The person who made the application goes to the hearing



You can take someone you trust to help you like a family member or friend



They can tell the Tribunal things about you

The Tribunal might decide you need someone to help you

Do I need a lawyer?



You do not have to have a lawyer

If you want a lawyer at the hearing
you can have one



You have to ask the Tribunal if this is
OK

Your lawyer can write to the Tribunal
explaining why you want a lawyer

The letter needs to be sent 1 week
before the hearing



The Tribunal may decide you need a
lawyer to help you at the hearing

Before the hearing



You can write to the Tribunal and say what you think about the application

You can send reports which back up what you want to say



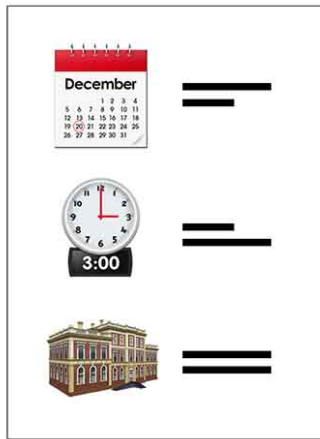
This will help the Tribunal understand about you and what help you need

You can call the Tribunal to find out what to send **02 9556 7600**



All documents need to be sent one week before the hearing

At the hearing



Check your letter for the date, time and place of the hearing



Arrive 15 minutes early



When you arrive tell your name to the person at reception

If you have questions ask the person at reception

You will be asked to sit in the waiting area

At the hearing



You will be invited into the hearing room when the Tribunal is ready



The meeting is recorded so there is a record of what people say



The Tribunal will introduce themselves and explain what will happen

At the hearing



It is important that you tell the Tribunal what you think and how you feel



You can ask questions



Everyone will be able to say what they think is best for you

The Tribunal might ask you questions



Most hearings last for 1 or 2 hours

Decision

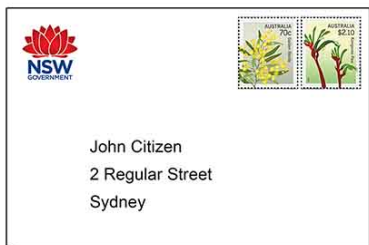


The Tribunal will meet in private to make a decision

They will tell you what they decide

Then you can go home

Sometimes the Tribunal takes a long time to decide



If this happens they will send you a letter to tell you what they decided



If you have any questions about what happens at a Tribunal hearing call **02 9556 7600**



This fact sheet has been made easy to read by



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