

If a consumer has a guardian, it's important for you to know if there are ANY LIMITS to the guardian's decision making ability (i.e. just financial or medical decisions). The best way to find this out is to look at the guardianship Court Order.

Remember: A guardian is "empowered" to make decisions for a consumer ONLY in the area(s) indicated in the court order. Otherwise, a consumer has the right to make his/her own decisions!!

This is especially important when it comes to treatment planning. If a consumer and guardian (if empowered in this area) disagree about what should be in the consumer's plan, the best approach is to help them reach an agreement. If this just isn't possible, the guardian is responsible for making decisions in the consumer's best interest and, ultimately, has the final word.

As always, if you have questions about this or any other Rights Tip, please contact the Officer of the Day at 544-3000. Thanks!!