



SUPPORTING ADULTS

***Assistance
For Abused or Neglected Adults***



NEW LEGISLATION

- British Columbia has a:

Adult Guardianship Act

Legislated 28 February 2000 and Revised February 2002

Part 3 of that Act (sometimes known as "the abuse and neglect provisions")

provides for people who are unable to seek help on their own or incapable of making their own decisions to seek help due to a:

- physical restraint
- physical handicap
- illness or injury

and includes developing Community Based Response Networks



ADULT GUARDIANSHIP ACT PART 3

Principles & Presumptions

- **Self determination and choice**

All adults are entitled to live in the manner they wish and to accept or refuse support, assistance or protection as long as they do not harm others and they are capable of making decisions about those matters.

- **Most effective but least intrusive support**

All adults should receive the most effective, but the least restrictive and intrusive form of support, assistance or protection when they are unable to care for themselves or their assets.

- **Adults are presumed capable**

Until the contrary is demonstrated, every adult is presumed to be capable of making decisions about personal care, health care, legal matters or about the adult's financial affairs, business or assets.



ADULT GUARDIANSHIP ACT PART 3

- **Promotes provision of informal support and assistance**
- **Tools for formal intervention.**

- **Team Approach and Involvement:**

For Example,

- Home and Community Care
- Mental Health
- Community Living
- Community Services
- Assault programs
- Legal services
- RCMP



ADULT GUARDIANSHIP ACT PART 3

Defines Abuse as:

- mistreatment of an adult that causes the adult physical, mental or emotional harm or damage to or loss of assets.

- **Mistreatment can be:**
 - **Psychological or Emotional:** Any act, including confinement, isolation, verbal assault, humiliation, intimidation, infantilization, or any other treatment which may diminish the sense of identity, dignity, and
 - **Physical:** Any act of violence or rough treatment causing injury or physical discomfort. May include the use of restraints.
 - **Sexual:** Any sexual behaviour directed toward an adult without that person's full knowledge and consent; i.e., sexual assault, sexual harassment, or use of pornography.
 - **Financial or Exploitation:** The misuse of an adult's funds and assets; obtaining property and funds without that person's knowledge and full consent, or in the case of an adult who is not competent, not in that person's best interests.
 - **Neglect**

ABUSE MAY OR NOT BE DELIBERATE



ADULT GUARDIANSHIP ACT PART 3

Defines Neglect as:

- **Failure to provide the necessary:**

- care
- Assistance
- Guidance
- attention

- **And that failure that leads to:**

- serious harm**

- * physical
 - * mental
 - * emotional

- substantial**

- * damage to assets
 - * loss of assets

NEGLECT MAY OR MAY NOT BE DELIBERATE



ADULT GUARDIANSHIP ACT PART 3

Defines Self-Neglect as:

- The failure of an adult to take care of self that causes, or has the potential to cause, serious harm to oneself or damage to or loss of assets.
- **This includes:**
 - Grossly unsanitary living space
 - Untreated illness or injury
 - Malnutrition
 - Hazardous lifestyle
 - Illness or injury likely to lead to loss of assets
- **That leads to:**

<u>serious harm</u>	<u>substantial</u>
* physical	* damage to assets
* mental	* loss of assets
* emotional	



ADULT GUARDIANSHIP ACT PART 3

Intervention Principles:

- **Adults are entitled:**
 - to live in the manner they wish
 - to accept or refuse:
 - * support * assistance * protection
- **Adults must be capable of making decisions about self and assets**
- **Adults must not harm others**
- **Most effective / least intrusive:**
 - * support * assistance * protection
- **Court is last resort**



ADULT GUARDIANSHIP ACT PART 3

Actual Interventions:

- **Designated agency has a legislated responsibility to:**
 - Respond to reports of abuse, neglect, and self-neglect.
 - develop plans that support and assist vulnerable adults.
 - intervene in emergencies.
 - *The Adult Guardianship Act* says the First Step is to involve the Adult.
- **Assessment Criteria:** able to make decisions? Risk of harm to self or others? Emergency? Which Agency?
- **When a report is made, the goal is to provide help wanted through:**
 - friends
 - family
 - advocates
 - agencies:
 - homemaking
 - health care
 - Court—as a last resort.



COMMUNITY RESPONSE NETWORK

What is the role of a Community Response Network?

- **Will provide an appropriate coordination the community response to adult:**
 - Abuse
 - neglect
 - self neglect
- **Will strive to foster relationships among CRN Members that benefit service to client by:**
 - Providing education & advocacy.
 - Working toward prevention of abuse, neglect and self-neglect.
 - Developing response protocols.
 - Supporting responder agencies.
 - Keeping track of community issues, trends, and successes



COMMUNITY RESPONSE NETWORK

Community Response Network Membership

- **Designated Agencies:**

- Health Authorities: Mental Health and Home & Community Care.
- Ministry for Children and Family Development

- **Community Committee Members:**

- Any person
- Any group
 - Community
 - Professional



COMMUNITY RESPONSE NETWORK

A Community Response Network:

- A community team dedicated striving towards the prevention of abuse, neglect, and self-neglect by fostering relationships among CRN Members while providing education & advocacy, developing response protocols, and monitoring responses.

THAT

- Utilizes a coordinated team approach to respond to reports of adult abuse, neglect and self-neglect that supports the responder agencies.



**CASTLEGAR
COMMUNITY RESPONSE NETWORK**

**Thank You For
Being Here Today!!**