

IN RE: Guardianship of the Person

Case No. _____

Ward an Incapacitated Person

**LETTERS OF GUARDIAN ADVOCATE
(CO-GUARDIAN ADVOCATES) OF THE PERSON**

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN;

WHEREAS, _____

(guardian advocate's name(s)) has have been appointed guardian advocate(s) of the person of _____ (the ward), a person with a developmental disability who lacks the decision-making capacity to do some of the tasks necessary to take care of his/her person; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, the undersigned, declare that _____

(guardian advocate's name(s)) is are duly qualified under the laws of the State of Florida to act as guardian advocate of the person of _____ (the ward), with full power to exercise the following powers and duties on behalf of the person with a developmental disability:

1. to apply for government benefits;
2. to determine residency;
3. to consent to medical and mental health treatment; and
4. to make decisions about social environment and social aspects of life; **and**
5. to make decisions regarding education.

Without first obtaining specific authority from the court, pursuant to sections 744.3215(4) and 744.3725, Florida Statutes, the guardian advocate (co-guardian advocates) may not:

- a. commit the respondent to a facility, institution, or licensed service provider without formal placement proceedings pursuant to Chapter 393, Florida Statutes;
- b. consent to the participation of the respondent in any experimental biomedical or behavior procedure, exam, study, or research;
- c. consent to the performance of sterilization or abortion procedure on the respondent;
- d. consent to termination of life support systems provided for the respondent;
- e. initiate a petition for dissolution of marriage for the ward; or
- f. exercise any authority over any health care surrogate appointment by a valid advance directive executed by the disabled person, pursuant to Chapter 765, Florida Statutes, except upon further order of this court.

The respondent shall retain all legal rights except those that are specifically granted to the guardian advocate (co-guardian advocates) pursuant to court order

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers at Fort Myers, Lee County, Florida, this _____ day of _____, 20____.

Circuit Judge