



Are you worried that  
someone you care about is  
unsafe at home?

**There may be alternatives  
to guardianship.**

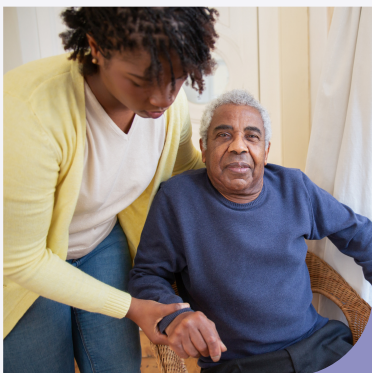


### **Why explore alternatives to guardianship?**

Guardianship should only be used as a last resort because it strips adults of the treasured right to make decisions for themselves. There may be services or options in the community that can meet the needs of the person you are concerned about. Guardianship may not be necessary even if the person is incapacitated.

### **Most older adults want to remain in their homes whenever possible.**

They may fear losing their independence, their belongings, and everything that is familiar to them. They may be concerned about the quality of life and the care they might receive if they move to a long-term care facility.



### **The good news:**

There are programs and services they may qualify for in their community that can help them stay safe and independent. You may want to talk to a professional at one of the organizations listed on the back of this flyer to see if services are available.

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### **Area Agency on Aging of Northwest Michigan**

Provides free or low cost activities and services for people 60 and older to help maintain their independence and quality of life. They can also help understand the other resources on this page and what might be a good fit.

 **231-947-8920**

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### **PACENorth**

Offers all-inclusive and coordinated care at PACENorth's PACE Center. PACE is available to individuals 55 and older who might otherwise need a nursing home. Most participants are eligible for Medicaid and Medicare.

 **231-252-2767**

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### **Home Help - Grand Traverse County Department of Health and Human Services**


A Medicaid program that can pay for help in a person's home with activities like bathing, dressing, meal preparation, shopping, laundry, and cleaning.

 **231-941-3900**

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### **MI Choice Waiver Program**

Allows individuals who might otherwise need a nursing home to stay in their own homes or in assisted living facilities. MI Choice is a Medicaid program that will pay for a wide array of services for people who qualify.

 **231-947-8920**  
Area Agency on Aging of Northwest Michigan

 **231-933-4917**  
Northern Health Care Management

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### **Northern Lakes Community Mental Health Authority (NLCMHA)**

Provides assistance for people who have serious mental illness or developmental disabilities in the community and at home. NLCMHA is Grand Traverse County's Community Mental Health agency.

 **231-922-4850**

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### **Michigan Guardianship Diversion Project (MGDP)**

This project is funded by a grant from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund to the Michigan Elder Justice Initiative, a non-profit civil legal aid organization. In partnership with the Probate Court and many local organizations, the project seeks to connect people to options that could be a less restrictive alternative to guardianship or conservatorship and to ensure guardianship is used only when it is necessary and appropriate.

**Contact us at 517-827-8010 Ext. 7 or [MGDP@meji.org](mailto:MGDP@meji.org) for more information or further assistance.**