



Is a vulnerable adult
facing eviction?

**There may be alternatives
to Guardianship!**



Why explore alternatives to guardianship?

Guardianship strips people of their treasured right to make decisions for themselves but may not solve the issues that lead to the risk of eviction. There may be many ways to help and protect a person at risk of eviction while still maintaining that person's right to make decisions for themselves.

What kind of help is available?

Free programs and services in the community including legal aid, Adult Protective Services, and other community organizations might be able to address the underlying problems including:

- Housekeeping and maintenance
- Paying bills
- Addressing financial hardship or exploitation that prevents someone from making payments for housing
- Responding to health or mental health issues or
- Resolving lease or ordinance violations that can lead to eviction

Legal aid and other agencies may also be able to help prevent illegal evictions by making sure that laws that protect tenants, homeowners, and residents of long term care facilities are respected.

Legal Aid

Whether the eviction is from an apartment or home, a long term care facility, a private residence, or due to mortgage foreclosure, tax foreclosure, or possible condemnation, Legal Aid may be able to stop or delay it. To get help, call the Counsel and Advocacy Law Line (CALL).

 **888-783-8190**

Michigan Legal Help

Offers reliable, easy-to-understand information about Michigan law on a wide variety of topics, including Eviction from Subsidized Housing, Eviction for Non-Payment of Rent (non-subsidized housing), Common Defenses and Counterclaims in Eviction Cases, etc.

 **www.michiganlegalhelp.org**

Community Mental Health

People may face eviction because they need help with mental health challenges or developmental disabilities. Northern Lakes Community Mental Health Authority (NLCMHA) provides free mental health treatment and support.

 **231-922-4850**

Michigan Long Term Care Ombudsman Program

If the person is in a licensed nursing home, adult foster care facility, or home for the aged and wants help, the local Ombudsman may be able to investigate and advocate for the resident. The Ombudsman may be able to connect the resident to a free lawyer if the resident wants legal help. All services are free and confidential.

 **866-485-9393**

Agencies that Provide Home Care, Chore Services, and Support People in their Homes

If the person needs help keeping their home tidy or addressing issues that can lead to eviction, call Area Agency on Aging of Northwest Michigan. They provide free or low-cost activities and services for people 60 and older to help maintain their independence. It can also help to connect to the MI Choice Waiver Program or Home Help.

 **231-947-8920**

Adult Protective Services (APS)

If there is an immediate risk of harm, call APS Centralized Intake. APS may be able to help find emergency shelter; pay for a one-time cleaning of the home; or connect a person to other community services.

 **855-444-3911**

The Michigan Guardianship Diversion Project (MGDP) 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.

For more information or further assistance, contact us at 517-827-8010, ext 7 or MGDP@meji.org.