



Is there a problem with a bill  
at a licensed long term care  
facility?

**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.

### **Why isn't the bill being paid?**

→ **The resident has not received a bill, does not understand the bill, or disagrees with the charges on the bill.**

The resident or a person acting on their behalf can talk to the facility to try to identify and resolve the billing issue. If that is unsuccessful, a long term care ombudsman may also be able to help or suggest other resources to assist the resident.

#### **Michigan Long Term Care Ombudsman Program**

The Ombudsman program strives to improve the quality of care and quality of life experienced by residents in licensed nursing homes, homes for the aged, and adult foster care.



**866-485-9393**

→ **Possible financial exploitation.**

After speaking with the resident, if there is a suspicion that someone else is taking or controlling the resident's money improperly, you or the resident can report it to Adult Protective Services even if you don't want to give your name.

**Adult Protective Services (APS)**

If APS accepts the case for investigation, they will begin investigating within 24 hours.

 **855-444-3911**

→ **Not enough income.**

The person may be eligible for Medicaid to pay for long term care services.

**Grand Traverse County Department of Health and Human Services**

Provides information and assistance with Medicaid applications.

 **231-941-3900**

→ **The resident is having difficulty managing or accessing their money.**

There are many ways to address these issues including informal support for bill paying, financial powers of attorney, representative payee arrangements with the Social Security or Veterans Affairs Administrations, conservatorships, or trusts. A free legal aid lawyer or a private attorney may be able to assist with these options.

**Legal Services of Northern Michigan**

May be able to help prepare a Financial Power of Attorney for free.

 **231-941-0771**

**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](mailto:MGDP@meji.org).**