

## **Adult Services Reference Guide**

### **Advocacy Organizations:**

#### ***Community Advocates for person with developmental disabilities***

814 S Westnedge  
Kalamazoo MI 49008  
342-9801

\*Assistance with accessing services, advocacy, housing, education, and benefit information

#### ***Disability Resource Center***

517 E Crosstown Parkway  
Kalamazoo MI 49001  
345-1516

\*Advocacy assistance, school accessibility, accommodation issues and skill training

### **Community Living Supports:**

#### ***Human Services Department (formerly FIA)***

Stockbridge Avenue  
Kalamazoo MI 49001  
337-4900

\*Chore provider services for individuals with disabilities and the elderly

#### ***Kalamazoo Community Mental Health Services and Substance Abuse***

418 W Kalamazoo Ave  
Kalamazoo MI 49007  
373-6000

\*Services for individuals with developmental disabilities and mental illness. Must go through the access center for intake. Potential services: case management, community living supports, skill training and employment support.

### **Public Guardian:**

#### ***Guardian Inc.***

5048 Lovers Lane #18  
Kalamazoo MI 49002  
344-0688

### **Health Care Coordination**

#### ***Center for Disability Services***

1000 Oakland Drive  
Kalamazoo MI 49008  
387-7009

\*Assistance with all health care issues and concerns. Coordination to promote independence and good health.

## Definitions

**Developmental Disability:** Developmental disabilities occur before the age of 22 and affect physical and/or mental abilities. Examples of disabilities include mental retardation, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, and autism.

A developmental disability may result in limited functioning in the following areas:

- self care
- speech and language
- learning
- mobility
- self-direction
- ability to live independently and/or to support oneself financially

**Guardianship:** Individuals with cognitive impairments or mental illness are considered competent to make decisions regarding their care unless a guardian has been officially appointed. Even in the case of guardianship, an individual has the right to participate in any and all decisions made on their behalf.

Individuals with disabilities may identify an individual through a “power of attorney”, to act as their proxy.

Plenary guardianship means that the individual is without ability to make informed decisions in the area of financial, legal, medical, educational, vocational and travel.

Partial guardianship is the preferred type of service and only removes those areas that the individual cannot make informed decisions in. The areas can include: financial, legal, medical, educational, vocational or travel.

### **People First Language:**

- People with disabilities
- He has a cognitive disability
- She has a diagnosis of autism
- She has a learning disability
- She uses a wheelchair

A person’s self-image is strongly tied to the words used to describe him. People first language describes what a person has, not who a person is.