

IMPORTANT TIME-LINE FOR TEENS TRANSITIONING TO ADULTS*

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***Information applies to residents of Ontario, Canada only.**

As a Caregiver, your time is precious, and planning your loved-one's appointments, and activities in advance can be great way to ensure events aren't missed, and of course~ preparation is KEY to help minimize stress for whatever plans are in store that day.

If you have a child with a developmental disability who is "transitioning to adulthood" there are some extra things to think about, and possibly plan for...

Did you know... as a parent, your status will change on your child's 18th birthday?

On the day your child turns 18, REGARDLESS of your child's diagnosis, in the eyes of the Ontario, Canadian government:

- your child will be seen as a fully functioning adult who is fully capable of making their own decisions, and they are given all rights and responsibilities of an adult
- parents are no longer the child's legal guardian
- parents no longer have legal standing as their child's legal representative
- parents can no longer make legally binding decisions on their child's behalf
- parents can no longer receive what would be considered "private personal information" about their child
- child funding and other child programs which may have accommodated the child will NOT transition to adulthood. The adult child must start fresh with no carry over of any kind

As a parent of a teen "transitioning to adulthood"... how (and when?) should YOU prepare for these changes?

1) Contact Developmental Services Ontario (DSO) www.dsontario.ca and begin the application process required to apply for adult developmental services, funded by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS).

Some services you can apply for through the DSO include:

- housing supports
- respite for your caregivers
- supports to help you take part in the community
- specialized and clinical supports
- Adult Protective Service Worker Program
- **Passport program**

It is recommended that you contact the DSO when your child is age 16 or 17.

2) Contact Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) www.ontario.ca/page/ontario-disability-support-program and begin the application process required to apply for income support, benefits for health costs, and other disability supports.

It is recommended that you contact ODSP when your child is age 17.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

An Application for ODSP which has not been started or was not completed prior to the incapable adult's 18th birthday, MAY require "Adult Guardianship of Property" in order for the application process to continue/ be completed if the applicant is not capable/does not understand how to complete and submit the application.

3) If your child will not be capable of managing their own property/finances which will include things like banking, filing taxes, applying for benefits they are entitled to, paying their bills, buying goods and services etc. "Adult Guardianship of Property" may be required.

If you qualify and choose to apply for Adult Guardianship of Property using the application process through the Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee (PGT), which is a service offered by TBH legal, (pre-qualifying quiz: tbhlegal.ca), TBH legal has created a seamless and simple process that ensures your application to become "Guardian of Property" is properly completed, and submitted within your timeline.

TBH legal, will work at your pace, and will set a "goal" application submission date- that makes sense for you and your loved-one. If your loved one is not yet 18 years old, the goal for completing and submitting the application will be their 18th birthdate or shortly following.

It is recommended that you contact TBH legal 3-6 months prior to your child's 18th birthday.

KEY NOTES ABOUT TBH LEGAL'S Adult Guardianship of Property Application Legal Service:

- TBH legal will ensure all documentation is prepared and ready to be submitted by or shortly following your child's 18th birthday.
- The Adult Guardianship of Property application can NOT be submitted to the PGT prior to the child's 18th birthday.
- The Capacity Assessment, which is required for the PGT application process, can NOT be performed prior to the child's 18th birthday. TBH legal will guide you through the process of picking a Capacity Assessor, and TBH legal will be the liaison between you and your capacity assessor to ensure mutual understanding and to ensure deadlines for the application process are met.

NOTE: Obtaining Guardianship through a "judge in court" is another way to obtain Guardianship of Property in Ontario, but is not discussed in this article.

To request a link to view "Adult Guardianship Explained" (video) or for more Adult Guardianship related Educational Resources for Caregivers / Care-Workers, please visit www.tbhlegal.ca/adultguardianship

*Rachel Merucci is an Ontario licensed Paralegal and sole proprietor of TBH legal and TBH admin.
TBH legal was launched in 2023 providing FREE Adult Guardianship education
to caregivers and care-workers of mentally incapable adults.
TBH admin provides an affordable Guardianship of Property Application Service
as required by the Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee (PGT).
TBH admin is relied upon by Ontario Caregivers to obtain "Guardianship of Property" for their loved
ones in the easiest and quickest way, at the most affordable price.
To learn more about TBH legal, TBH admin, and Rachel Merucci
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