

## What is the Office of the Public Advocate?



The Office of the Public Advocate (OPA) wrote this factsheet.

When you see the word 'we' it means the people who work at OPA.



We wrote it in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain things.

Hard words are **bold** and **blue**.



You can ask someone to help you read this factsheet.

You can read our Hard Word factsheet if you need more help.



We wrote this factsheet to explain what the **Office of the Public Advocate** is.

## What is the Office of the Public Advocate?



There are lots of government offices in Western Australia.



The **Office of the Public Advocate** is a government office.



This is what the logo looks like.



The **Office of the Public Advocate** is difficult to say.

Sometimes people call it OPA instead.

You say it like this - 'Owe-per'

## Who works at the Office of the Public Advocate?



The **Public Advocate** is a person.

She is in charge of people working at OPA.



A lot of people work for the **Public Advocate**.



Some of these people are called investigators.



Investigators help to work out whether a person needs a guardian or administrator.



Learn more from our Easy Read Factsheet called 'How does an investigation work'.



Other people who work at OPA are called guardians.



A guardian makes decisions for someone who can't make their own decisions.



Learn more using our Easy Read Factsheets called:

'A friend or family member is my guardian – how does it work?'

and

'The Public Advocate is my guardian – how does it work?'

## What type of decisions can a guardian make?



A guardian can make decisions about where you live, your medicine, health and services.



These are called **lifestyle decisions**.



A guardian cannot make decisions about money, selling things and paying bills.



Decisions about money, selling things and paying bills are called **financial decisions**.

An administrator makes these decisions.

## More information:



The **Office of the Public Advocate** protects the rights of adults with decision-making disabilities and is appointed under the *Guardianship and Administration Act 1990 (WA)*.

You can learn more about what they do by visiting their website:

[www.publicadvocate.wa.gov.au](http://www.publicadvocate.wa.gov.au).

**Postal Address:** PO Box 6293, East Perth WA 6892

**Phone:** (08) 9278 7300

### Telephone Advisory

**Service:** 1300 858 455

**Email:** [opa@justice.wa.gov.au](mailto:opa@justice.wa.gov.au)

**Website:** [www.publicadvocate.wa.gov.au](http://www.publicadvocate.wa.gov.au)

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