





Considerations

- Is the patient in a safe living environment?
- Does the patient have the capacity to decide their living arrangements?
- Is the supervision provided adequate?
- At what point, if any, should a report be made to APS? On what grounds?

Older Adults Living Alone -

Unbefriended:

- Lack capacity to make decisions
- Have not completed legal documents
- Have not designated a legally authorized decision maker

Adult Orphans:

- Have decision-making capacity
- Have not completed legal documents
- Have not designated a legally authorized decision maker
- *At risk of becoming unbefriended*

Other terms:

- Unrepresented
- Isolated

Legally Authorized - Representatives -

Guardianship

A legal relationship between a competent adult (the "guardian") and a person who, because of they are impaired in some way, is no longer able to take care of their own affairs (the "ward").



Legally Authorized - Representatives -

Power of Attorney



- Power of Attorney for Healthcare is separate from a Power of Attorney for Finances
- Often both are needed when addressing disposition because finances impact options
- A person must have capacity when creating the document

Hierarchy of Legally-Authorized - HEALTHCARE Decision-Makers -

- Only when a patient LACKS CAPACITY

**Court appointed guardian
(In a court document)**

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graph TD; A["Court appointed guardian  
(In a court document)"] --> B["Designated Health Care Agent -  
(In a valid DPOA-HC)"]; B --> C["Patient-Designated Surrogate -  
(Documented in health record) -"]; C --> D["Appointed Surrogate - selected by  
agreement among "interested persons"  
(Declaration of Surrogate)"];
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Designated Health Care Agent -
(In a valid DPOA-HC)

Patient-Designated Surrogate -
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Older Adults Living Alone Assistance and Intervention

- Public and Private Agencies/ Organizations
- Protective Services
- Guardianship and Conservatorship

<https://www.catholiccharitieshawaii.org/>

<https://www.elderlyaffairs.com/>

<https://thecaregiverfoundation.org/>



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