

Information on custodians

What is a custodian?

A custodian is a person who is not attached to any company or public authority. A custodian may be regarded as an assistant for a person in need of help (the client) – a representative and coordinator of services rather than a practical performer of services. A custodian is not employed by the municipality or by the Chief Guardians' office and works voluntarily in his or her own time. A custodian has a right to an annual economic compensation for his or her work. The client is the one to pay for this economic compensation, if his or her income or assets are high enough. The Chief Guardians' office is the authority that supervises the work of the custodian in Sydnärke, Askersund, Hallsberg, Kumla, Laxå and Lekeberg. Among other things this means that the Chief Guardians' Committee inspects the financial report that every custodian has to submit every year. The Chief Guardians' office also investigates the need for a custodian and decides in certain cases to arrange custodianship. Each custodian who is responsible for the finances of a client must report to the Chief Guardians' office once a year.

What does a custodian do?

The duties of a custodian may vary according to the situation of the client. A custodian may, for example, help with applications to authorities, sale of housing, or ensuring that bills are paid. The client may also need a different place to live or someone to represent him or her when planning health care. However, it's not always the job of the custodian to take the necessary action. The job of a custodian is to coordinate action and to ensure that things get done.

Custodianship is voluntary.

Custodianship is a voluntary help for the client and requires a cooperation between the custodian and the client. A custodian cannot do things for the client to which the client does not consent. However, in the case of routine measures such as paying bills, the custodian does not need to ask the client for specific consent each time. The custodian has obligations to the client alone and not to anyone else.

Three elements of custodianship.

Custodianship may have the following three elements:

- ◆ Safeguarding of rights – bevaka rätt
- ◆ Administration of property - förvalta egendom
- ◆ Caring for the person – sörja för person

Which elements the custodianship (godmanskap) involves depends on the needs of the client.

Custodianship may involve one of these elements, or two, or all three.

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The meaning of the different elements

Safeguarding of rights means that the custodian represents the client to deal with public authorities or others. This may for example involve applying for benefit, appealing against a decision, or representing the client in executing an estate inventory or selling a real estate.

Administration of property means that the custodian is responsible for the finances of the client. In practice this means that the custodian makes sure that bills are paid and that the client has the pocket money that he or she needs. If this element is included in the custodianship the custodian must give a report of the finances of the client to the Chief Guardians' office every year.

Caring for the person means that the custodian is responsible for making sure that the client has what he or she needs regarding accommodation and health care and that other needs are catered for. Whether or not this element forms part of the custodianship, a custodian ought to have a picture of how these aspects work. But the fact that the custodian has a responsibility for these elements doesn't mean that he or she personally must take the measures concerned, but to ensure that things get done.

Questions

If you have any question regarding custodianship, please contact The Chief Guardians' office.

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