

Relevant Sections of Washington State [Senate Bill 5825](#) (2024)

Section 15: Adds to Chapter 2.72, Revised Code of Washington, requiring the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG), subject to the availability of funds, to contract with public or private entities to provide decision-making services for individuals who are currently receiving care in a hospital setting who are ready to discharge. To be eligible, the person must be: 1) age 18 or older with an income that does not exceed 400 percent of the federal poverty level or who is eligible to receive long-term care services through the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services; 2) in an acute care hospital, a psychiatric hospital, or in a location funded by a hospital; 3) medically ready for discharge, or will soon be medically ready for discharge to a post-acute care or community settings; and 4) without a qualified person who is willing and able to serve as a guardian.

The OPG must establish a streamlined process to review requests for decision-makers for individuals who meet these criteria on a weekly basis. OPG must also establish a navigator service to provide assistance and support for individuals in hospitals including assistance in navigating options for guardianship, public conservatorship, decision-making assistance, and estate administration services. The OPG, subject to funding, must offer low-barrier trainings to certified professional guardians on topics such as aging, mental health, and dementia and must fund training for decision-makers regarding considerations for specific populations including behavioral health, involuntary treatment, disability, family law, and Medicaid programs.

Section 16: Beginning October 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, the OPG must submit a report to the legislature regarding the demand for the services provided by OPG, barriers to service delivery, and outcomes achieved. The report must include:

- the number of contract service providers under contract with OPG and the caseload of each contract service provider;
- the number of guardianships, conservatorships, and each of the less restrictive options supported by OPG; and
- the total number of hospitalized persons prioritized and a summary of outcomes with regard to prioritized persons.