

New Virginia Law: **Voting Rights Under Guardianship**

Historically in Virginia, if a guardian was proposed and appointed for someone with a disability, voting rights were removed unless an argument was made to keep them. As of July 1, 2026 the law is changing. Now **when a guardian is appointed, voting rights will be kept unless an explanation is given to the Court on why they need to be removed.**

If your voting rights have been removed, you can work with an attorney to file a petition with the court to get them back, or file a layperson's petition to do this. (This is not a new law).

Do you have questions about the new law?

Ask The Arc of Northern Virginia at <https://thearcofnova.org/answers>

Ask disAbility Law Center at <http://dlcv.org/contact>

See the new law at <https://lis.virginia.gov/bill-details/20261/SB34>

Partners in this handout include:

The Arc of Northern Virginia, <https://thearcofnova.org/>

REV UP Virginia, <https://revupva.org/>

disAbility Law Center of Virginia, <https://www.dlcva.org/>

League of Women Voters of Virginia, <https://my.lwv.org/virginia>