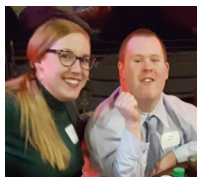


Q & A for Adult Sibs



Cristi, an adult sibling living in Appleton asks: *My parents and I are looking more seriously*

into co-guardianship of my brother and are stalled with a question. His original guardianship was established in Dane County, but he now lives in Jefferson County and I'm in Outagamie County. So....which county do we need to work through?



Kristine Williams, Attorney and WisconSibs board member answers:

A guardianship should always be in the county where the individual under the guardianship is residing. Therefore, if the guardianship is just being established, the petition for guardianship will need to be filed in the county where the individual is living.

If the individual moves to a different county, the guardianship will need to be transferred to that county. In order to do this, an interested person (i.e. guardian, spouse, adult child, county, agent under unrevoked power of attorney, or another individual required by the court) will need to file a "petition for change of venue" in the county in which the original guardianship was established to have it changed to the new county of residence. If no objection to the change of venue is made within 15 days of the filing of the petition, the court will enter an order changing venue and the guardianship will thereafter proceed in the new county. See Wis. Stat. §§ 54.01(17)(b), 54.30. Since the original guardianship for your brother was established in Dane County, the guardian, or another interested person, would need to file a petition for change of venue in Dane County indicating that the individual now resides in Jefferson County.

Lastly, notice of the petition will also need to be given to the register in probate and corporation counsel for both

Dane County and Jefferson County. Upon an order granting the change of venue, you would thereafter work with Jefferson County.

The county's register in probate will sometimes provide assistance regarding the forms that need to be completed to achieve the above, otherwise an attorney in the individual's new county of residence can also be a good point person. Additionally, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services has a wonderful publication titled "Guardianship of Adults" that provides a lot of useful information. This resource is available at:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p2/p20460.pdf>.

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Cari sends an email from the WisconSibs website asking: *My parents are in their 70s, my brother who is autistic is 45. They need to move forward with looking for long term care for when they pass however they won't. Would love to know what is the best resource for group homes in fox valley area. I would like to try to move them forward. My brother could never live on his own so need to find a placement to suit his needs. Thank you!*



Harriet Redman, WisconSibs Executive Director answers: Thanks for your email. Your description of your concern is very familiar. So many

adult siblings like yourself have shared these same concerns and for similar reasons. Planning for long term care is complex and often emotional, too. So parents put it off. Ironically, siblings are the most likely to take over caregiving, but often parents do very little to involve them in conversations about it. Good for

you for addressing your brother's needs before a crisis.

There are many places that you could start, but let me offer you 3 tips that many siblings have found helpful:

1. If you haven't already, **contact your county's Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)**. Here is the website to get connected to the one for your brother's county. <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/adrc/index.htm> They can help you and your parents locate options and determine what types of benefits your brother is eligible for such as IRIS or Family Care.

2. **Involve your brother if at all possible.** It is his life and he'll probably be more enthused about future plans if he's had a say in it. One way to get him AND your parents talking is to work on a Letter of Intent together. This isn't a legal document, but it can be very helpful in preparing for any legal work that you may need such as a special needs trust, supported decision making, power of attorney, or guardianship. You can Google "Letter of Intent" and find lots of options, including The Arc's futureplanning.thearc.org/

WisconSibs has created one especially for adult siblings. You can download it from our Journey Forward webpage at <https://wisconsibs.org/what-we-offer/journeyforward/>

3. **Connect with other adult siblings.** WisconSibs has social and educational activities throughout the year for siblings of people with disabilities. You can find those on our website <https://wisconsibs.org/eventsinfo/whats-new/> You may also want to watch for our next future planning program Journey Forward. It is a two-part workshop for siblings and whoever they care to invite to get some practical information about planning, including meeting with an attorney, meeting your sibling's ADRC specialist, housing, work, etc.

There are also adult sibling groups online that can be very helpful for connecting with siblings with shared concerns and shared joys. Here is a link - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SibNet/>