

Disability Rights Legal Center

CLRC

Cancer Legal Resource Center

The CLRC is a joint program of the Disability Rights Legal Center & Loyola Law School Los Angeles

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Estate Planning Glossary

The Cancer Legal Resource Center has designed this information sheet to answer commonly asked questions. However, this information may be just a starting point for you to find out additional information. Please feel free to contact the Cancer Legal Resource Center at (866) THE-CLRC if you need additional information or to answer other questions you may have.

Beneficiary

An individual who receives income or assets from a trust, life insurance policy, a will, etc.

Community Property

Generally, income or property acquired by either spouse during a marriage, except by gift or inheritance, in community property states only. Contact an attorney to determine whether the state in which you live is a community property state.

Conservatee

The incapacitated person for whom a conservatorship has been established.

Conservator

An individual who is appointed by the court to act on behalf of an incapacitated person.

Conservatorship

A court proceeding in which the court supervises the management of an incapacitated person's finances and/or personal care.

Estate

The property that is the subject of a trust or probate proceeding.

Guardian of the Person

A person appointed by the court to take care of a child under 18 years old.

Guardian of the Estate

A person appointed by the court to manage the assets and finances of a child under 18 years old. This person can be the same person who is appointed the Guardian of the Person.

Health Care Agent

A person appointed by you to make your health care decisions if you are unable to do so.

Patient Self-Determination Act (PSDA)

The 1990 Patient Self-Determination Act encourages all people to make choices and decisions now about the types and extent of medical care they want to accept or refuse should they become unable to make those decisions due to illness. The PSDA also requires that all hospitals, long-term care facilities, and home health agencies that receive Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement to ask you whether you have an advance health care directive and requires them to recognize it.

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