

STEPPING IN WHEN HELP IS NEEDED
AN EDUCATIONAL VIDEO
ON GUARDIANSHIP AND CONSERVATORSHIP
IN MASSACHUSETTS

When a loved one becomes incapacitated, close friends and family may not think twice about stepping in to help. While taking on the role of guardian or conservator may be the right thing to do, it is not easy. *Stepping in When Help is Needed* was developed to answer the many questions that friends and family may have about this important service.

The best way to view this video is with the help of a trained educator—someone who understands the legal and professional issues that are likely to come up when someone thinks about becoming the guardian or conservator for another person.

Even without such a trained educator, *Stepping in When Help is Needed* can answer some basic questions about guardianship and conservatorship in Massachusetts. It tells the story of an elderly woman who has a broken hip and the woman’s daughter who is doing her best to help her mother. In telling this story, the video can help viewers understand what it means to ask a judge for authority to serve as a guardian or conservator, what the basic responsibilities of a guardian and conservator are, and how to obtain help in meeting the responsibilities of a guardian or conservator.

Although it was developed with an eye toward helping family and friends (informal care providers), *Stepping in When Help is Needed* can also be used in educational programs for attorneys, social service providers, and other professionals who meet and serve frail and incapacitated adults.

Stepping in When Help is Needed on a DVD with an accompanying manual for trainers will be available soon.

The training manual will contain instructional material on how to use the video in delivering engaged training on the subjects addressed in the video and includes mock pleadings that can be used as samples.

[Please check back for availability and information on how to obtain these materials.](#)

A project of *Northnode, Inc.*
with

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and

