



**Independent  
Living**  
Support  
**decision-making**  
Social support &  
**Assistance**



**Guardianship Girona Foundation**

## About us

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The **Guardianship Girona Foundation** is an *independent, non-profit organization* established in 2003 whose main purpose is to defend, promote, develop and extend the Rights of people who suffer from mental health disabilities, intellectual disabilities or cognitive impairment related to old age whilst enabling individuals to pursue their well-being, ensure their dignity and preserve their autonomy through legal protection and social support.

Since our organization's lifespan, we've provided protection and support to more than 1.200 people, from which more than 700 are still actively receiving it in a territory populated by 700.000 inhabitants (Province of Girona). Overall, 49% of our user base is people who suffer from severe mental disorders, 27% experiments intellectual disability, 19% lives with advanced dementia and the remaining 5% are users whose diagnosis is difficult to classify.

The Foundation promotes social support and therapeutic intervention by allocating 66% of its human resources in a specific area jointly working with the rest of professionals allocated in economic management or legal defence. The Foundation operates under the Catalan Civil Law framework, pioneer in voluntary support and assistance mechanisms.

## Work philosophy

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In order to achieve our goals we are determined to use every currently available legal protection mechanisms –till now we've been appointed guardians of vulnerable adults without social environment able to assume that function in our region– with the least restrictive approach and conceptualised and executed as support mechanisms which, ultimately, empower each individual to fully exercise its legal capacity. Aware of the change of paradigm and new focus introduced by the CRPD we wish to contribute decisively in further implementing CRPD's provisions, especially by taking a leap on the initial dilemmas –legal, ethical and practical– around the equal exercise of legal capacity but also being conscious that in order to accomplish the aforementioned provisions a substantial legislative reform is required along with committed social policies designed to provide the adequate assistance and social support.

Our organisations vision encompasses a globalised focus, although it's certain that the recently introduced support mechanisms to exercise legal capacity span to a large and specific target group, we believe that our expertise in Guardianship services has the potential to become the starting point to fully develop support services that generate a more inclusive society in collaboration with providers committed and aligned with Human Rights expanded through CRPD's provisions.

# Our role / Key Activities

- > **Protect and provide social support** to vulnerable adults, people with mental disorders and / or intellectual disabilities who need it.
- > **Improve the quality of life** of persons protected by the Foundation defending, promoting and developing their Rights by providing information, advice and assessment to them and their families.
- > **Provide assistance** to help people design and execute its future needs according to its own life plan using instruments which allow people to express their will whilst accepting associated responsibilities.
- > **Assume the role of guardianship** or another legal mechanism appointed by justice services to those who need it in Girona's region **and to accept the burdens and responsibilities** established in the sentence and derived from law.
- > **Pre-guardianship** assumptions giving support to those who practise the guardianship, with the compromise of future protection preventing the future absence of key relatives or guardian.
- > **Take legal actions** in courts of any jurisdiction in order to defend the Rights of its beneficiaries and their families.
- > **Raise general awareness**, sensitize society and cooperate with authorities and public or private organizations in the improvement of mechanisms to support the elderly, people with mental disorders and people with intellectual disabilities.
- > **Assessment to administrations and social services** about legal protection and social support services to all types of vulnerable adults, in general or specific terms.
- > **Evaluation of cases** derived from other fields (Justice, Health, Social Services, etc.) **and training to the professionals** involved.
- > **Promote the necessary projects, services or facilities**, with all kind of non-profit partners, in order to accomplish The Foundation's goals.

CATALONIA (Spain)



**EUROPE**





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Girona  
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