

## SUBMISSION FOR A REVIEW OF THE NSW GUARDIANSHIP ACT OF 1987.

Our nightmare experience with the NSW Guardianship Tribunal began in 2007. From our unfortunate dealings with this Government body it is obvious to us (& numerous other unfortunate families we have spoken to) that the GT is long overdue for drastic & major changes due to the systemic problems that exist in the current system.

Our major concern of complaint is that there are no checks or balances whatsoever made by the GT to ascertain the qualifications or motives of the applicant(s) seeking Guardianship over a person (victim). Also in our case the GT made no attempt to advise any family member that Guardianship had been obtained by 2 complete outsiders (not related to our family in any way) with the help of their solicitor friend.

The GT just accepts the Application Form & “rubber stamps” it for expediency without any further investigation which is totally unacceptable and that leads to major problems for the victim and family who have been deceived by the ineligible applicant(s). This resulted for us in enormous legal expenses in order to resolve the “mess & chaos” all instigated by the Guardianship Tribunal.

Unwise decisions made by the GT then freely grants a licence to the applicant(s) to manipulate the person (victim) concerned for their own ultimate financial gain & immoral advantage with the person (victim) concerned losing their basic human rights. In our case the person (victim) supposedly being protected by the GT was financially manipulated & medically neglected by the perpetrators & was found in a deplorable state in her home after we had to gain access by contacting the Police. The locks had been changed several times by the perpetrators to deny the family access & obscene notes placed in the victim's house written by the perpetrators for the attention of the employees of the company that called for 1 hour a day, 5 days a week to prepare a meal, not to allow access to the Daughter (my Wife) of the victim.

Following our attempts to have the 2 perpetrators charged with Criminal Neglect we were advised by the Police that as the victim did not have any signs of bruising they could not be charged.

Prior to our initial hearing (which was a manipulated farce) with the GT we were advised that we would not require legal representation however the perpetrators had legal representation (at the expense of the victim) & the GT provided the victim with legal representation.

It also became glaringly apparent to us that the GT has the totally misconceived & deluded belief that unless you are a solicitor/lawyer you are then far superior to the rest of the community & everyone else does not warrant an opinion & are therefore totally ignorant.

Following an appeal hearing to the GT in 2011 my Wife was then granted Guardianship & Financial Management (under the supervision of the NSW Trustee & Guardian) of her Mother.

The previous 2 Guardians relinquished their roles prior to the hearing following intensive national media coverage of “our story” by the Daily Telegraph, Channel 7 News & Channel 9 A Current Affair. We were also supported by an extensive & highly accurate report written by the Social Work Manager of [REDACTED]

Despite the 2 perpetrators having already relinquished their roles as Guardians they still had the audacity to appear at the 2011 hearing with their solicitor friend which of course was totally absurd. This solicitor also made futile attempts to charge us for representing the 2 perpetrators.

Also at the hearing the presiding member made the staggering decision that the 2 perpetrators were to be allowed visiting rights (“on the grounds of fairness”) to the victim & that she had to be placed in a nursing home that was convenient & suitable to them. This was done despite all the damning evidence provided by us at the hearing. Thankfully we had this ridiculous situation over ruled by the Police who disallowed the 2 perpetrators any access as they were both under Police Investigation.

The presiding member completely disregarded “the fairness” that was not shown to us by the 2 perpetrators & their solicitor friend over the previous 4 years.

In our particular case documents were redacted & other documents were withheld from us by the GT. This is a Criminal Offence however the GT appears to be immune from prosecution.

We are also fully aware that if it was not for the wonderful support of the media & the Social Work Manager’s report which forced the 2 perpetrators to relinquish their roles as Guardians then the GT would still have allowed them to remain as Guardians. This would have allowed them to further neglect & financially manipulate the victim (now deceased).

Submission prepared 15 February 2016 by Maxwell Watts husband of Mareaa Watts.

Mareaa’s Mother was [REDACTED] who died on [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Maxwell & Mareaa Watts- [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]