

Fact Sheet about DDS and Regional Center Roles in Conservatorship

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and your regional center play an important role in conservatorships. Sometimes, DDS is the conservator. Regional centers are no longer allowed to become conservators. The roles are different at different times.

When the Conservatorship is Being Started

The regional center plays an important role if someone is trying to conserve you. If another person or agency wants to become your conservator to make decisions for you, they must go through the court. The judge will look at different kinds of information. One piece of information they look at is the report the regional center submits. This report tells the judge about your abilities and areas you need help in. The report will include recommendations about whether or not you need a conservator and if you do, it will also recommend in what areas a conservator is needed. For more information about conservatorships, see the [Frequently Asked Questions about Limited Conservatorships](#)

DDS is not involved at the start of a conservatorship unless they have been asked to be the conservator.

After a Conservatorship is in Place

Once a conservatorship is in place, your conservator should send the official stamped “letters of conservatorship” to the regional center. This document lists the powers the conservator has. The regional center will carefully review the papers to determine what decisions the conservator can make for you. The regional center will include the conservator in the things that you ask for or that the conservatorship requires. For example, if the conservator has the power to make decisions about where you live, and they ask the regional center to move you, the regional center should do so. However, there are limits on what a conservator can do. There are also times that a conservator must get involved. For example, if you need a medical procedure and your conservator has the power to make healthcare decisions, they must get involved to approve the procedure or make other plans. [Rights and Responsibilities of a Conservator](#)

When DDS is the Conservator

If you need someone to make decisions for you and help keep you safe and there is no one available, DDS may be nominated to be your conservator. Nominated means

asked by someone. Your regional center, the public guardian, or a hospital or doctor's office could ask DDS to be the conservator. DDS will evaluate the request carefully.

Before agreeing to be nominated, DDS will review your records from your regional center and other sources. DDS will have someone go out and meet with you. DDS only accepts a conservatorship as a last resort. Only when necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the person and when there are no less restrictive options and no others who are able to be the conservator.

If the court assigns DDS as your conservator, they will delegate their authority to your regional center. That means your regional center will act like your conservator, but DDS will oversee and monitor the conservatorship. Regional center responsibilities for DDS conservatees have increased. Regional centers must give DDS a monthly report and do a person-centered review every other year for each conservatee. They are required to routinely assess if the conservatorship is still needed or if there are others who are able to be the conservator. For more detailed information please see the [Information Packet](#).