



Easy to Read Information

The Courts Service Annual Report 2017

What you need to know about Ward of Court



The Court Service recently published its Annual Report for 2017.

The Annual Report explains the work the Courts Service did in 2017



The Court Service works on all the legal cases in Ireland.



The court service also looks after applications for Ward of Court.

Being made a Ward of Court can also be called "taken into Wardship"



Someone can become a Ward of Court at the moment in Ireland if the Court decides that person cannot make their own decisions.

There are different reasons why someone might be made a Ward of Court

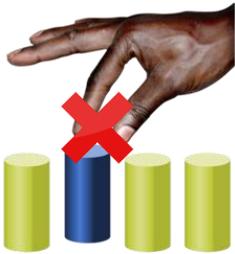


In both 2016 and 2017 the reason most people were made Ward of Court was because they had dementia or another illness caused by getting older.



In both 2016 and 2017 the second largest group of people who were made ward of Court were people with intellectual disability.

If a person is a Ward of Court, somebody else makes all their decisions for them through the courts.



This means the person has no choice and control over their own life.

Under the new Assisted Decision Making Capacity Act the Ward of Court system will change.



When the Act is commenced or starts, people who were wards of Court before the act will be able to get support to make their own decisions just like everyone else.

Under the new act anyone who is a Ward of Court will have their Wardship or Ward of Court Status reviewed within the first 3 years.



In 2017 there were more applications to make people Ward of Court than 2016



In 2017, 350 adults and children were taken into Wardship.

30 of these people had intellectual disabilities

In 2016, 311 adults and children were taken into Wardship.



18 of these people had an intellectual disability.



The fact that the numbers of people taken into Wardship are going up is a bad thing.

When the numbers keep going up it will make it harder for the High Court to review all the cases within 3 years like they have promised to do.



INCLUSION IRELAND

Inclusion Ireland wants the High Court to review all Wards of Court as soon as possible so that people can get the supports they need to make decisions that impact their lives.