

# Frequently Asked Questions: Transition

## How do I start the Guardianship process?

- Contact Sylvia Davenport with the Helping Parent Program at: [SDavenport@ssp2p.org](mailto:SDavenport@ssp2p.org) for advice. You may also contact the attorney we work with; Angela Carlson Whitley at 360-915-9774
- Guardianship is very complex so we have a lawyer we can connect you with (see above), you can go to the Thurston County Family courthouse in Tumwater. The website is: [www.thurstoncountywa.gov](http://www.thurstoncountywa.gov) to obtain the paper work and do it on your own, or we can connect you with a Helping Parent Mentor who has been through the process successfully. The way you approach this is up to you. For a guide to Guardianship information, please check [www.arcwa.org](http://www.arcwa.org)

## How do I learn about SSI, DDA, and other systems that I'll need as my child ages?

- Contact Sylvia Davenport at [SDavenport@ssp2p.org](mailto:SDavenport@ssp2p.org) as everyone's needs vary.

### SSI

- Susan Harrell with the GO WISE Program is the assistant Executive Director and is the person we refer families to for SSI support. Her number is 360-239-9919 and the website is: [www.gowise.org](http://www.gowise.org) Susan can talk with a family to discuss the SSI plan and she has a great deal of knowledge in this area.

### DDA

- The application paperwork for DDA can be obtained online under DDA at: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/dda/service-and-information-request> or
- Go to the DDA office. For Thurston County families, the office is at:  
**6860 Capital Blvd. SE Tumwater, WA 98501** (888-339-8227),  
For Mason County families, the office is at:  
**2505 Olympic Hwy. North Suite 440 in Shelton, WA 98584** (360-432-2151).
- If eligible for DDA services, you will be matched with a case worker who will go over all of the benefits that are available to your family.
- You can also see their FAQs at <https://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ssdd/faq-resources.html>