

Judicial Branch

Program Evaluation Reports

Guardianship of Adults (2025)

Recommendation	Status	Notes
The Judicial Branch should improve its data collection practices to ensure that guardianship data are sufficiently reliable to oversee adult guardianship statewide.	Work needed to determine implementation	The Judicial Branch has developed new data collection guidelines for Judicial Branch staff and stated that staff are in the process of improving the reliability of guardianship data. OLA would need to conduct further research to determine the extent to which guardianship data are sufficiently reliable.
The Judicial Branch should protect sensitive information about respondents and people subject to guardianship.	Not implemented	In 2021, the Minnesota Supreme Court amended the Rules of Public Access of Records to the Judicial Branch to require most guardianship data to be public. The Supreme Court has not made any changes to this action.
The Judicial Branch should enforce statutory background check requirements for guardians in a timely manner.	Work needed to determine implementation	The Judicial Branch did not report that it has implemented changes to address the issues we identified. OLA would need to conduct further research to determine the extent to which issues continue to persist.
The Judicial Branch should revise guardians' annual report template to make it more useful and user friendly.	Not implemented	The Judicial Branch told us that the annual report form is based on statutes and the Branch will revise the form if the Legislature amends statutes.
The Judicial Branch should ensure that the courts act in a timely and consistent manner and in accordance with state law and Branch processes to obtain required guardian reports.	Work needed to determine implementation	The Judicial Branch did not report that it has implemented changes to address the issues we identified. OLA would need to conduct further research to determine whether issues continue to persist.
The Judicial Branch should develop systematic processes for notifying judicial officers of significant guardian performance issues.	Partially implemented	The Judicial Branch developed a process to track guardians who have been removed for cause but has not implemented a system to notify judicial officers of significant guardian performance issues.
The Judicial Branch should establish a process for systematically reviewing adult guardianships.	Not implemented	The Judicial Branch stated that additional formal review of guardianships would be beneficial but has not made changes to current practice due to staffing and resource constraints.
The Judicial Branch should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require all judicial officers who preside over adult guardianship hearings to complete training on guardianship. Consolidate the number of judicial officers who hear guardianship cases. 	Not implemented	While training is not required, the Judicial Branch told us it strongly encouraged judicial officers overseeing guardianship cases to attend an in-person training provided in late 2025, and it is developing an optional online training video on guardianship. A Branch committee is reviewing whether to consolidate judicial officers that hear guardianship and other probate cases.
The Judicial Branch should ensure that it completes guardianship complaint investigations in a timely manner.	Implemented	