



2.6.5 Guardianships and custodianships

Guardians ... represent the legal rights of their underage wards in their entirety (parental care).

Custodians ... represent the legal rights of their underage wards to some extent (decisions on accommodation, healthcare, assets, etc.).

Guardians and custodians may be ... private individuals (“sole” guardians/custodians), experts working for independent organisations (“by association”) or representatives of the youth welfare office (“official”).

Facts and figures:

In Germany, at the end of 2019

- almost 40,300 minors were in the care of a guardian by appointment; almost 3,900 had a statutory guardian;
- around 32,200 minors were subject to an official custodianship.

In 2019, the family courts withdrew parental custody either fully or partially in approx. 16,500 cases. The youth welfare offices are consulted in these decisions.