

Simple Financial Tools

Simple financial tools can help you manage your money. They can also let you help someone else manage theirs. These simple tools may be useful options instead of guardianship.

Joint Bank Account

A joint bank account is like a regular bank account. It allows more than one person to manage it. This means that two or more people may own the account. They can add money or use the money in it.

This type of account can be good for parents and their children, or adults and their parents. It works best for people with a strong, trusting relationship.

Pros of a Joint Bank Account

- Each account owner can see how money is spent. This is useful if either account owner needs extra help managing money.
- A joint bank account may help detect fraud quickly. Both owners can see online banking account views.
- Each account owner can transfer money to a joint account.
- Parents can help their adult children manage their money.
- Adult children can help their aging parents manage their money.

A joint bank account is a great way to get help managing your money. It might also be a good way for you to help someone else manage theirs. Here are some things to know about a joint bank account:

- Owners cannot control each other's spending. It is possible for one person can use all the money in the account.
- One account owner could overdraw the account. Overdrawing the account may result in fees.
- Both owners can see spending from the account.

Setting Up a Joint Bank Account

Does a joint bank account sound like a good fit for you? If yes, you should talk with the person you want to share a bank account with. Discuss your options together. Joint bank accounts work best for people with solid and trusting relationships.

Opening a joint bank account is similar to opening a personal account. You should contact your bank. You must choose a "joint account" during the setup process. You will need to give the bank personal info for all account holders. This may include addresses, dates of birth, and Social Security numbers.

If you have more questions about joint bank accounts talk to someone at your bank. You can learn more about its features and whether it is a good option for you.

Additional Tools

Some other tools may be helpful when managing money.

Credit Unions and Banking Services

- These provide services to people who may need help managing their money.

Direct Deposit and Payments

- This process deposits benefits or payments straight into a person's bank account. These deposits may include regular income, government benefits, or other payments.

Ceiling Limit

- This tool creates a limit on how much someone can take out of a bank account. A person can take out funds up to a specific limit. The person could not take out more than this amount.

Credit and Debit Cards

- You can set up credit and debit cards with a spending limit. Spending limits can be used to manage money. It may help a person stick to a budget.



Rethinking Guardianship is a North Carolina initiative promoting less restrictive alternatives to guardianship, and creating long-term changes in the state's guardianship system.

rethinkingguardianshipnc.org