



DEPRESSION & CURATORSHIP



THINK OF A CURATOR
BONIS AS A GUARDIAN
OF FINANCIAL
MATTERS ONLY!

WHAT IS A CURATOR BONIS?

A Curator Bonis is a person appointed by the High Court to manage and protect the financial affairs and property of someone who cannot do so themselves.

Some of the reasons a Curator Bonis is appointed is due to:

- **Mental incapacity** (dementia, brain injury and mental illness)
- **Physical incapacity** (unable to communicate or act on their own)
- **Being a minor** (in some cases, if no guardian is available or appropriate)

KEY ASPECTS OF A CURATOR BONIS



- The role is appointed by the High Court - often a legal professional, after an application is made demonstrating the individual's inability to handle their own affairs. (Medical reports are required)
- The role focuses on the management and safeguarding of the individual's financial resources, assets and transactions.
- Responsibilities include:
 - Receiving and administering assets
 - Making financial decisions and managing investments
 - Handling financial transactions
 - Applying money for the maintenance and support of the person.
- A Curator Bonis must keep detailed records of all financial activities and submit annual reports to the Master of the High Court to account for the estate's funds.
- The Curator Bonis acts in the best interest of the person, protecting them from financial exploitation and ensuring their assets are managed properly.
- The Curatorship remains in effect as long as the person is alive and unable to manage their own personal affairs.



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Recently our office was approached in bringing an application for the appointment of a Curator Bonis, for a patient that suffers from severe depression.

****There are various degrees of depression. What is important, is to qualify that the patient has the inability to take care of him/herself and their financial affairs. Once this is confirmed, then an application may be launched.****

In this matter the applicant was the sister of the patient, who knew the patient her whole life and was already taking care of her.

The patient was under the care of a psychiatrist and general practitioner.

The medical report obtained from the psychiatrist stated that:

“The patient presented a number of concerning psychological symptoms including persistent sadness, bouts of depression and generalized anxiety.”

A report from a neurosurgeon stated that the patient had long term impairment of her cognitive function, her mobility and general ability to care for herself. Furthermore she could not make financial decisions and needed to be placed in assisted living to assist her with day-to-day living.

In society many people suffer from depression to some extent. Some cope and are able to manage their day-to-day activities and wellbeing however others cannot cope with daily life.



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Fortunately the appointment of a Curator Bonis can assist patients live a better life without the unnecessary challenges and worries that life throws at them.

If you are in a situation, where a friend or family member requires a Curator Bonis appointment, feel free to reach out to us as we will be happy to assist you with the necessary advice and/or give guidance.

MEET THE WRITER OF THE ARTICLE



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