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Father Bob Maguire under guardianship order before death

The late Father Bob Maguire was forced to step down as chairman of his charity after he was placed under a strict guardianship order.



Brooke Grebert-Craig

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@brooke_gc

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Father Bob Maguire died on April 19. Picture: Jake Nowakowski

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The late Father Bob Maguire was forced to step down as chairman of his charity after he was placed under a strict guardianship order.

The Herald Sun can reveal a family member of the Catholic priest became his legal guardian weeks before his death.

Father Bob was unable to be identified as the subject of the order due to Victoria's Guardianship and Administration Act 2019.

But on Friday, the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal granted an exemption, deeming it of public interest.

A guardianship order is a legal document that gives a person power to make decisions on behalf of another individual about personal matters.

VCAT can make the order if an individual doesn't have decision-making capacity.



Father Bob Maguire at his charity offices in Albert Park in 2020. Photo Jake Nowakowski

The application for the appointment of guardianship were backed by three separate medical reports.

VCAT refused to release the reports, stating it was an “unreasonable invasion of privacy”.

Due to the order, the 88-year-old was forced to step down as chairman of the Father Bob Maguire Foundation a week before [his death](#).

Father Bob told the Herald Sun that he was [blindsided by the decision](#).

“It’s nasty ... I’ve known these blokes for years but they have turned treacherous. It’s all a bloody mess,” he said.

His advocate, Sally Millard, said the board wanted to push him out.

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“They’ve always considered him a thorn in their side, they never liked the way he does things, he operates under his own rules,” she said.

The board slammed the allegations, calling the comments “scurrilous” inspired by “online conspiracy theorists”.

“There have been many grossly ill-informed and patently wrong assertions made, often by people who have never met him or worked with him saying that it’s all a conspiracy by the board to get rid of Father Bob,” they said.

“Suggestions that the board are just doing it for their own gain are just ridiculous – we are all volunteers who have been helping Father Bob for decades.”

Father Bob died at the age of 88 at Cabrini Hospital on April 19.

It’s understood he was placed into an aged care facility for respite care at the start of the year after a decline in his health.

The priest was remembered for his beloved humour and social justice advocacy at a [state funeral on May 5](#).

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