

Guardianship of the Estate Packet

The forms in this packet may be used to request or petition the Court for guardianship of an estate to manage a child's money or other property and preserving it until the child reaches 18 years of age.

To Petition for Guardianship of the Estate:

- Complete all of the Mandatory Forms included in this packet.
- Once you have completed and reviewed the packet, make two (2) photocopies of all documents (every page), staple each document separately. Place the copies of each document in order behind the corresponding original.
- Bring the completed originals and two (2) photocopies to the Probate Clerk's Office at the B.F. Sisk Courthouse, 3rd Floor
- The Probate Clerk will file your original packet, once filed, your copy will have the case number and hearing date filled in.
- Someone over 18 years of age and not party to the case (not you) must personally serve or hand-deliver a copy of the Petition, all of the attachments, a Notice of Hearing and the Comparison of Guardians with Other Nonparent Caregivers (GC-207) to the parents and to the child if they are age 12 or older.
- You will also need to have all grandparents and any siblings of the child that are age 12 or older served with copies. They can be served by mail.
- Service must be completed at least 15 days before your hearing date.
- The person who serves the documents for you must fill out and sign the proof of service on the Notice of Hearing. Then bring the Notice of Hearing back to the Probate Clerk's Office with the proof(s) filled out. This must be filed before your hearing date.

Mandatory Forms Checklist:

- ☐ Petition for Appointment of Guardian of Minor (GC-210)
- ☐ Guardianship Petition–Child Information Attachment (GC-210(CA)) - complete one for each child
- ☐ Indian Child Inquiry Attachment (ICWA-010)
- ☐ Consent of Proposed Guardian, Nomination of Guardian, and Consent to Appointment of Guardian and Waiver of Notice (GC-211)
- ☐ Confidential Guardian Screening Form (GC-212) - complete one for each proposed Guardian
- ☐ Declaration Under Uniform Child Custody and Jurisdiction Enforcement Act and Attachment (FL-105/GC-120 and FL-105A/GC-120A)
- ☐ Duties of Guardian (GC-248)
- ☐ Notice of Hearing – Guardianship or Conservatorship (GC-020)
- ☐ Order Appointing Guardian of Minor (GC-240)
- ☐ Letters of Guardianship (GC-250)
- ☐ Comparison of Guardians with other Nonparent Caregivers (GC-207 INFO) - required to be served with the petition

Additional Mandatory Forms if the child has Indian (Native American) Ancestry:

- Information Sheet on Indian Child Inquiry Attachments and Notice of Child Custody Proceeding for Indian Child (ICWA-005-INFO)
- Notice of Child Custody Proceeding for Indian Child (ICWA-030)
- Attachment to Notice of Child Custody Proceeding for Indian Child (ICWA-030(A))

Optional Forms:

- What is "Proof of Service" in a Guardianship (GC-510)
- Attachment to Judicial Council Form (MC-025)
- Blank Declaration Form (MC-030)

This form is about acting as a *guardian of the estate* to manage a child's money or other property and preserving it until the child reaches 18 years of age.

The form explains:

- What is a guardian of the estate and who can be appointed as one;
- Who can nominate a guardian of the estate, and how;
- The court process for appointment of a guardian of the estate;
- The powers, duties, and liabilities of a guardian of the estate;
- The court's authority to oversee the guardian of the estate in the performance of the guardian's duties; and
- The procedures for removing and replacing a guardian or terminating a guardianship of the estate.

For information about probate *guardianship of the person*, read Judicial Council form GC-205-INFO. For information about *juvenile court guardianship*, read form JV-350-INFO. For a comparison of guardianship with *juvenile court placement* with a relative caregiver or foster (resource) family, read form GC-207-INFO/JV-352-INFO.

Before asking a court to appoint a guardian, a parent, potential guardian, or other benefactor may find it useful to think about these questions:

- Does the child really need a guardianship?
- What alternatives are available?
- Would any of the alternatives be better for the child?
- Do the parents agree to the guardianship?
- If the parents don't agree, is there enough evidence to show that the child needs a guardian?
- Do you need legal advice or assistance?

CAUTION: This form is not a substitute for legal advice. Only a licensed attorney can give advice about how the law applies to a specific situation. Click this link, www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp-findlawyer.htm, for help finding a lawyer. For more information, visit the *California Courts Online Self-Help Center* or talk to your court's *self-help center*.

1 What is a guardian of the estate?

A guardian of the estate is a person appointed by the probate court to take control of a child's money or other property, manage that property, and preserve it for the child until the child reaches the age of 18 and can take control of the property for themselves. The court takes appointment of a guardian of the estate very seriously, and the law requires the guardian to collect and make an *inventory and appraisal* of the property, keep accurate financial records, and file regular financial accountings with the court. Consulting an attorney for legal advice in managing the estate is highly recommended.

2 Are there alternatives to guardianship?

Yes. The law allows a parent or any other person from whom the child receives property to make financial arrangements for the child's property. For example, money received by a child may be deposited in an account accessible only in specified circumstances or by court order until the child reaches 18 years of age. This and other protective

measures can be used without the appointment of a guardian of the estate. These financial arrangements can be complicated; consulting with an attorney before choosing one over another is highly encouraged.

Note: *Some financial institutions, insurance companies, and courts require the appointment of a guardian of the estate before they will release funds to a person acting on behalf of a minor child.*

3 Who can be appointed as guardian?

To become the court-appointed guardian of a child's estate, you must:

- Be an adult (18 years old or older); and
- Show the court that your appointment would be in the best interest of the child, considering both:
 - Your ability to manage and preserve the child's estate (money and property); and
 - Your concern for and interest in the welfare of the child.

4 Can a parent or other person name a person they want to be appointed as guardian?

Yes. A parent can **nominate** a guardian of the estate if:

- The other parent(s) nominate or consent *in writing* to the nomination of the same guardian for the same child; or
- At the time the petition for appointment is filed, either the other parent(s) are dead or lack legal capacity to consent, or the consent of the other parent(s) would not be required for adoption of the child.

In addition, any person from whom, or by designation of whom, a minor child receives property may nominate a guardian of that property.

The nomination must be made in the petition for appointment of the guardian, at the hearing on the petition, or in a writing signed either before or after the petition is filed.

A nomination is valid when made, except that a written nomination may specify that it is to take effect only if one or more events, such as the incapacity, detention, or death of the person making the nomination, occur.

Unless a written nomination provides expressly otherwise, a nomination remains effective even if the person making the nomination dies or becomes legally incapacitated.

5 Who can file a petition for appointment of a guardian of the estate?

A relative or other person, or the child if 12 years of age or older, may file a petition for appointment of a guardian in probate court using *Petition for Appointment of Guardian of Minor* (form GC-210) in probate court.

THE APPOINTMENT PROCESS**6 Filing the petition**

Once a person has decided that a child needs a guardian, the first step in the process is to complete *Petition for Appointment of Guardian of Minor* (form GC-210) and all other required documents. Then, file the forms with the clerk of the court in the county where the child lives unless it would be better for the child to file in a different county.

Some courts have additional local forms that need to be filed along with the statewide forms.

The petition needs to ask the court to appoint a guardian of the estate or a guardian of both the person and the estate; give the proposed guardian's name and address and the child's name and date of birth; and state that the appointment is necessary or convenient. The petition must also give the names and addresses of the child's parents and other persons who have specific relationships with the child. If the child is an Indian child, the petition must state that fact and give the name and address of any Indian custodian and the child's tribe. The petition must also tell the court whether there are any adoption, child custody, juvenile court, family law, or other guardianship proceedings affecting the child in progress in California or any other state or country.

The court charges a fee for filing a guardianship petition. If the child or the child's estate cannot afford to pay the fees, the petitioner may request that the court waive the fee requirement. The court clerk can provide the required fee waiver forms.

7 Notice of the hearing

Before the court can hold a hearing to decide the petition, the person who filed the petition must give **notice** of the hearing to specific persons unless the court finds that the petitioner tried diligently and couldn't give notice to a person or that notice would be against the interests of justice. The notice must include a copy of the petition and a copy of *Comparison of Guardians With Other Nonparent Caregivers* (form GC-207-INFO/JV-352-INFO).

Notice must be given to the child if 12 years old or older, the parents, anyone else with legal custody, and anyone nominated to be the guardian by *serving* them personally or, if that's not possible, by first-class mail with an acknowledgment of receipt requested. For more information about *service* of notice, see *What Is "Proof of Service" in a Guardianship?* (form GC-510). Other persons may be given notice personally, by mail, or, if they consent, electronically. If the child is an Indian child, notice must be mailed to any Indian custodian and the child's tribe as required by the Indian Child Welfare Act.

8 Investigation

Unless it finds a good reason not to, the court will order an investigation before the hearing on the petition to appoint a guardian. The court investigator will contact the proposed guardian, the child, and any other persons who might know about the child's family and their needs. The investigator will give a report to the court and make a recommendation on what decision the court should make.

The court or county charges a fee for conducting the guardianship investigation. The court can waive its fee if it would cause a hardship to the child or the child's estate. The county can also waive its fee because of hardship.

If someone objects to the appointment of a guardian or to the petitioner's appointment as guardian at or before the hearing, the court may decide it needs to hold a trial. Based on its determination of the child's best interest, the court may grant the petition, may grant another person's petition, or may find that the child doesn't need a guardianship and deny all the petitions.

If the probate court thinks the child has been, or is at risk of being, abused or neglected by a parent, the court may refer the child to the county child welfare agency for an investigation and commencement of juvenile court proceedings. If the probate court makes a referral, the guardianship proceedings are paused, but the probate court can make any order necessary to protect the child, including an order appointing a temporary guardian or issuing a temporary restraining order.

If, after three weeks, the agency has not notified the probate court that it has filed a petition to begin proceedings in juvenile court, the probate court or the child's attorney, if the probate court has appointed one, may file a request with the juvenile court to review the agency's decision not to begin juvenile court proceedings and to order the agency to file a petition to begin those proceedings.

If the juvenile court begins proceedings, the guardianship proceedings must remain paused. If the juvenile court does not begin proceedings, the probate court can hold a hearing and decide whether to appoint a guardian.

9 Hearing and standard for appointment

An interested person may appear and object or respond to the petition *in writing* at or before the hearing. In addition, an interested person may appear and object or respond *orally* at the hearing. If no one objects, the court may decide the matter on the verified petition and declarations. If a person objects, then the court will consider evidence, determine any issues, and make appropriate orders.

Based on its determination of the child's best interest, the court may grant the petition, may grant another person's petition, or may find that the child doesn't need a guardianship and deny all the petitions. The probate court may appoint a guardian for a child when the appointment is *necessary or convenient*. The petitioner must prove to the court that a guardianship is needed.

The court must appoint the person nominated as guardian of the estate unless the court determines that the nominee is not suitable. Subject to the preference for a nominee, the court will consider the best interest of the child, taking into account the proposed guardian's ability to manage and preserve the estate property and their concern for and interest in the welfare of the child. If the child is old enough to form an intelligent preference about whom should be appointed, the court must also consider that preference.

10 Oath, letters, and bond

For an appointment as guardian to be valid, the court must sign the *Order Appointing Guardian or Extending Guardianship of the Person* (form GC-240). The guardian then needs to complete *Letters of Guardianship* (form GC-250) and take both forms to the clerk's office. After the guardian affirms that they will perform their duties according to law and posts the court-ordered bond, the clerk will issue *Letters of Guardianship* as proof of appointment as guardian of the child's estate. The clerk will keep the original *Letters* in the case file. The guardian should buy a certified copy from the clerk, make copies of it for use, and keep the certified copy in a safe place. Showing the *Letters* to banks and other financial institutions will help the guardian perform duties, such as opening accounts or making investments, by verifying the legal authority to act on the child's behalf.

MANAGING THE ESTATE—POWERS AND DUTIES**11 Prudent investments**

As guardian of the estate, you must manage the child's money and property with the care of a prudent person dealing with someone else's property. This means that you must be cautious and may not make speculative or risky investments.

12 Separation of estate money and property

As guardian of the estate, you must keep the money and property of the child's estate separate from everyone else's, including your own. When you open a bank account for the estate, the account name must indicate that it is a *guardianship* account and not your personal account.

You should use the child's Social Security number when opening estate accounts. You should never deposit estate funds in your personal account or otherwise mix them with your own funds or anyone else's funds, even for brief periods.

Securities in the estate must be held in a name that shows that they are estate property and not your personal property.

13 Interest-bearing accounts and other investments

Except for checking accounts intended for ordinary expenses, you should place estate funds in interest-bearing accounts. You may deposit estate funds in insured accounts in federally insured financial institutions, but you should not put more than \$250,000 in any single institution. You should consult with an attorney before making other kinds of investments.

14 Blocked accounts

A *blocked account* is a type of account with a financial institution in which money or securities are placed. No person may withdraw funds from a blocked account without the court's permission.

Depending on the amount and character of the child's property, the guardian may choose **or the court may require** that estate money or other assets be placed in a blocked account. As guardian of the estate, you must follow the directions of the court and the procedures required to deposit funds in this type of account. The use of a blocked account is a safeguard and may save the estate the cost of a bond.

15 Other restrictions

Other restrictions on your authority to deal with estate assets exist. Without a prior court order, you may not pay fees to yourself or your attorney. You may not make a gift of estate assets to anyone. You may not borrow money from the estate. You may not use estate funds to purchase real property without prior court order.

If you spend estate funds without court permission, the court may compel you to reimburse the estate from your own funds and remove you as guardian. You should consult with an attorney concerning the legal requirements relating to sales, leases, mortgages, and investment of estate property.

If the child whose estate you are managing has a living parent, or if that child receives assets or is entitled to support from another source, you must obtain court approval before using *guardianship* assets for the child's support, maintenance, or education. You must file a petition or request approval in the original petition and set forth exceptional circumstances that justify any use of guardianship assets for the child's support. The court ordinarily will grant such a petition for only a limited period of time, usually not more than one year, and only for specific and limited purposes.

16 Inventory and appraisal of estate property

You must locate, take possession of, and protect the child's income and property that will be part of the estate. You must change the ownership of all assets into the guardianship estate's name. For real estate, you should record a copy of your *Letters of Guardianship* with the county recorder in each county where the child owns real property.

Next, you must arrange to have a designated probate referee determine the value of the estate property unless this requirement is waived by the court. You, not the referee, must determine the value of certain "cash items." An attorney can advise you on this.

After you have gathered all the child's money and property and determined how much it is worth, you must complete and file an *Inventory and Appraisal* with the court within 90 days of appointment using forms GC-040 and GC-041. The court may order you to return 90 days after your appointment to ensure that you properly file the inventory and appraisal.

17 Insurance

You should make sure that the property of the estate and any risks to it are protected by appropriate and sufficient insurance. You should maintain the insurance coverage throughout the entire period of the guardianship or until the insured property is sold.

18 Records and accounts

You must keep complete, accurate records of each financial transaction affecting the estate. The checkbook for the guardianship checking account is an indispensable tool for keeping records of income and expenditures. You should also keep receipts for all purchases.

Record keeping is critical because you will have to prepare periodic accountings of all money and property you have received, what you have spent, the date of each transaction, and its purpose. You will also have to describe in detail the money and property remaining after you have paid the estate's expenses.

Beginning one year after initial appointment as guardian of the estate and then at least every two years after that, you must file an accounting for the previous period with a petition asking the court to review and approve the accounting. The court may ask that you explain or justify some or all expenses charged to the estate. You should have receipts, account statements, and other related documents available for inspection in case the court requests them.

If you do not file your accounting as required, the court will order you to do so. You may be removed as guardian if you don't file an accounting. If you know you are going to need extra time to prepare and file an accounting, be sure to ask the court for an extension ahead of the deadline.

You must comply with all state and local rules when filing your accounting. The Probate Code requires that all accounts be submitted on Judicial Council forms. There is a set of forms for standard accounts; the numbers of all these forms start with GC-400. There is also a set of forms for simplified accounts; the numbers of these forms start with GC-405.

California Rules of Court, rule 7.575 explains the accounting process and the forms. You should also check local rules for any special local requirements.

An attorney can advise you and help you prepare the inventory, accountings, and petitions. If you have any questions, you should consult with an attorney.

FURTHER COURT PROCEEDINGS**19 Court oversight**

The guardian is subject to the regulation and control of the court in performing their duties. In addition to reviewing periodic accountings, the court may order you to enter into specific transactions or prohibit transactions for the benefit of the child. The guardian, the child, or any interested person can ask the court for such an order. After notice and a hearing, the court will make orders in the best interest of the child.

20 Removal and replacement of guardian

After notice and a hearing on a petition filed by the child, a relative or friend of the child, or any other interested person, the probate court may remove a guardian for specific reasons or when it is in the child's best interest. The court may also suspend the powers of the guardian until it can hold a hearing on the petition for removal. A guardian may also file a petition to resign, and the court must allow the resignation if it appears proper.

If for any reason there is a vacancy, the court may appoint a *successor* guardian after notice and a hearing as in the case of the original appointment.

21 Termination of guardianship

A guardianship of the estate terminates when the child reaches age 18 or if the child dies before age 18, subject to the duty to keep and preserve the estate until it is delivered to the child's personal representative and to settle the estate's accounts. The court may also terminate the guardianship if it decides that is in the child's best interest. At termination, the guardian must distribute the estate property and file a final account and petition for discharge with the court.

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY NAME: FIRM NAME: STREET ADDRESS: CITY: STATE: ZIP CODE: TELEPHONE NO.: FAX NO.: E-MAIL ADDRESS: ATTORNEY FOR (name):	FOR COURT USE ONLY
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF Fresno STREET ADDRESS: 1130 O Street MAILING ADDRESS: CITY AND ZIP CODE: Fresno, CA. 93724 BRANCH NAME: Probate Division	
GUARDIANSHIP OF (name):	CASE NUMBER:
PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN OF <input type="checkbox"/> MINOR* <input type="checkbox"/> MINORS* <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 5px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Person** <input type="checkbox"/> Estate** </div>	HEARING DATE AND TIME: DEPT.:

1. **Petitioner (name each):**

requests that

- a. ☐ (name):
 (address):
 (telephone):
 be appointed guardian of the PERSON of the minor or minors named in item 2 and *Letters* issue upon qualification.
- b. (Not applicable to proposed wards 18 years of age and older.)
☐ (name):
 (address):
 (telephone):
 be appointed guardian of the ESTATE of the minor or minors named in item 2 and *Letters* issue upon qualification.
- c. (1) ☐ bond not be required ☐ because the petition is for guardian of the person only ☐ because the proposed guardian is a corporate fiduciary or an exempt government agency ☐ for the reasons stated in Attachment 1c.
- (2) ☐ \$ bond be fixed. It will be furnished by an authorized surety company or as otherwise provided by law. (Specify reasons in Attachment 1c if the amount is different from the minimum required by Prob. Code, § 8482.)
- (3) ☐ \$ in deposits in a blocked account be allowed. Receipts will be filed. (Specify institution and location):
- d. ☐ authorization be granted under Probate Code section 2590 to exercise the powers specified in Attachment 9.
- e. ☐ orders relating to the powers and duties of the proposed guardian of the person under Probate Code sections 2351–2358 be granted (specify orders, facts, and reasons in Attachment 1e).
- f. ☐ an order dispensing with notice to the persons named in Attachment 10 be granted.
- g. ☐ other orders be granted (specify in Attachment 1g).

2. Attached is a copy of *Guardianship Petition—Child Information Attachment* (form GC-210(CA)) for each minor for whom this petition requests the appointment of a guardian. The full legal name and date of birth of each minor is:

- a. Name: Date of Birth (month/day/year):
- b. Name: Date of Birth (month/day/year):
- c. Name: Date of Birth (month/day/year):
- d. Name: Date of Birth (month/day/year):

☐ The names and dates of birth of additional minors are specified on Attachment 2 to this petition.

***Under section 1510.1(d) of the Probate Code, the terms *child*, *minor*, and *ward* include a youth 18 to 20 years of age.**

****You MAY use this form or form GC-210(P) for a guardianship of the person. You MUST use this form for a guardianship of the estate or of the person and estate. Do NOT use this form for a temporary guardianship.**

GUARDIANSHIP OF (name):

CASE NUMBER:

3. Petitioner is

- a. ☐ related to the minor or minors named in item 2, as shown in item 7 of each minor's attached form GC-210(CA).
 b. ☐ the minor named in item 2, who is 12 years of age or older.
 c. ☐ another person on behalf of minor or minors named in item 2, as shown in item 7 of each minor's attached form GC-210(CA).

4. The proposed guardian is (check all that apply):

- a. ☐ a nominee (affix a copy of nomination as Attachment 4a or file Nomination of Guardian (form GC-211, items 2 and 3) with this petition.
 b. ☐ related to the minor or minors named in item 2, as shown in item 3 of each minor's attached form GC-210(CA).
 c. ☐ other, as shown in item 3 of each minor's attached form GC-210(CA).
 d. ☐ a professional fiduciary within the meaning of the Professional Fiduciaries Act. The proposed guardian's license status is shown in item 1 on page 1 of the attached Professional Fiduciary Attachment. (Use form GC-210(A-PF)/GC-310(A-PF) for this attachment.)

5. ☐ Petitioner, with intent to adopt, has accepted or intends to accept physical care or custody of the minor.6. ☐ A person other than the proposed guardian has been nominated as the guardian of the minor by ☐ will ☐ other writing. A copy of the nomination is affixed as Attachment 6. (Specify name and address of nominee in item 2 of minor's attached form GC-210(CA).)7. ☐ Character and estimated value of property of the estate (complete if petition requests appointment of a guardian of the estate or the person and estate):

- a. Personal property: \$ _____
 b. Annual gross income from all sources, including real and personal property, wages, pensions, and public benefits: \$ _____
 c. **Total:** \$ _____
 d. Real property: \$ _____

8. Appointment of a guardian of the ☐ person ☐ estate of the minor or minors named in item 2 is necessary or convenient for the following reasons:

- ☐ Continued in Attachment 8. ☐ Parental custody would be detrimental to the minor or minors named in item 2 (not applicable to proposed wards 18 years of age and older).

9. ☐ Granting the proposed guardian of the estate powers to be exercised independently under Probate Code section 2590 would be to the advantage and benefit and in the best interest of the guardianship estate. Reasons for this request and the powers requested are specified in Attachment 9.10. ☐ Notice to the persons named in Attachment 10 should be dispensed with under Probate Code section 1511 because
☐ they cannot with reasonable diligence be given notice (specify names and efforts to locate in Attachment 10).
☐ giving notice to them would be contrary to the interest of justice (specify names and reasons in Attachment 10).

GUARDIANSHIP OF (name):

CASE NUMBER:

11. ☐ (Complete this item if this petition is filed by a person who is not related to a minor named in item 2 and is not a petition for appointment of a guardian of the estate only.)
- a. ☐ Petitioner is the proposed guardian and will promptly furnish all information requested by any agency referred to in Probate Code section 1543.
- b. ☐ Petitioner is not the proposed guardian. A statement by the proposed guardian that he or she will promptly furnish all information requested by any agency referred to in Probate Code section 1543 is affixed as Attachment 11b.
- c. The proposed guardian's home ☐ is ☐ is not a licensed foster family home.
- d. ☐ The proposed guardian has never filed a petition for adoption of the minor ☐ except as specified in Attachment 11d.
12. ☐ Attached to this petition is a *Declaration Under Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (UCCJEA)* (form GC-120) concerning each child under 18 years of age listed in item 2 (*guardianship of the person or person and estate only*).
13. Filed with this petition are the following (*check all that apply*):
- ☐ *Consent of Proposed Guardian* (form GC-211, item 1)
- ☐ *Nomination of Guardian* (form GC-211, items 2 and 3)
- ☐ *Consent to Appointment of Guardian and Waiver of Notice* (form GC-211, item 4)
- ☐ *Petition for Appointment of Temporary Guardian* (form GC-110)
- ☐ *Petition for Appointment of Temporary Guardian of the Person* (form GC-110(P))
- ☐ *Confidential Guardianship Screening Form* (form GC-212)
- ☐ *Petition for Special Immigrant Juvenile Findings* (form GC-220)
- Other (*specify*):

14. All attachments to this form are incorporated by this reference as though placed here in this form. Number of pages attached:

Date:

(SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY*)

*(All petitioners and the proposed ward—if he or she is at least 18 years of age but not yet 21 and not a petitioner—must also sign.)

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date:

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)

(SIGNATURE OF PETITIONER)

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)

(SIGNATURE OF PETITIONER)

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)

(SIGNATURE OF PETITIONER)

I consent to the appointment of the person named in item 1.a as guardian of my person and to his or her performance of the duties of a guardian on my behalf.

Date:

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)

(SIGNATURE OF PROPOSED WARD)

Guardianship of (all children's names): _____

This child's name: _____

Fill out a separate copy of this form for **each child** for whom your petition asks the court to appoint a guardian.This form is attached to the Petition, ☐ form GC-210, item 2, or ☐ form GC-210(P), item 8.The petition asks the court to appoint a guardian of this child's (specify): ☐ person ☐ estate ☐ person and estate.**1 Tell the court about this child**a. Child's full legal name: _____ Date of birth: _____
First Middle Last mm/dd/yyyyb. Child's current address: _____

c. Indian child inquiry (Complete only if your petition asks the court to appoint a guardian of this child's person or person and estate. If your petition asks the court to appoint a guardian of this child's estate only, skip this item and go to item 1d.)

☐ I have asked whether the child is or may be a member of one or more Indian tribes recognized by the federal government, or eligible for membership in such a tribe and the biological child of a tribal member, and whether the child or parents live or are domiciled on a reservation or rancheria or in an Alaskan Native village. Form ICWA-010(A), *Indian Child Inquiry Attachment*, is attached to this form.☐ I have not asked about the child's Indian heritage because the parents are unavailable or deceased.

(For more information about your duties under the federal Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) (25 U.S.C. §§ 1901–1963) and California law, including making the inquiry and completing form ICWA-010(A) if the child is or may be an Indian child, see Information Sheet on Indian Child Inquiry Attachment and Notice of Child Custody Proceeding for Indian Child (form ICWA-005-INFO).)

d. Is this child married? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Never married If you checked "No," was this child married in the past but the marriage was dissolved or ended in divorce? ☐ Yes ☐ No
(The court cannot appoint a guardian of the person for a minor child who is married or whose marriage was dissolved or ended in divorce.)e. Is this child receiving public benefits? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ I don't know (If you checked "Yes," fill in below.)

Type of Aid	Monthly Benefit	Type of Aid	Monthly Benefit
<input type="checkbox"/> TANF (Temporary Asst. for Needy Families)	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (explain): _____	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Social Security	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (explain): _____	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Dept. Veterans Affairs Benefits	\$ _____		

f. Name and address of the person with legal custody of this child: _____

_____g. ☐ (Check this box and fill out below if the person the child lives with is **not** the person in f. with legal custody.)
Name and address of the person this child lives with (who takes care of the child): _____

_____

Guardianship of (all children's names): _____

Case Number: _____

This child's name: _____

1 Tell the court about this child (continued)

- h. ☐ (Check this box if this child has been involved in an adoption, juvenile court, marriage dissolution (divorce), domestic relations, child custody, or other similar court case.) Describe the court case below:

Type of Case	Court District or County and State or Tribe	Case Number (if known)

- i. ☐ (Check this box if this child is in or on leave from an institution supervised by the California Department of Developmental Services or the California Department of State Hospitals.) Write the name of the institution here:

2 List the names and addresses of this child's relatives and all other persons shown below:

Relationship	Name	Home Address (Street, City, State, Zip)
Mother	_____	_____
Father	_____	_____
Grandmother (Mother's mother)	_____	_____
Grandfather (Mother's father)	_____	_____
Grandmother (Father's mother)	_____	_____
Grandfather (Father's father)	_____	_____
Sibling	_____	_____
Sibling	_____	_____
Sibling	_____	_____
Sibling	_____	_____
Sibling	_____	_____
Sibling	_____	_____
Sibling	_____	_____

- ☐ (Check here if this child has additional relatives, including parents, grandparents, siblings, or half-siblings, and list their names and addresses on a separate sheet of paper. Write "Form GC-210(CA)," the name of this child, and "Item 2: Other Relatives" at the top of the paper and attach it to this form.)



Guardianship of (all children's names): _____

Case Number: _____

This child's name: _____

2 List the names and addresses of this child's relatives and all other persons shown below:

Relationship	Name	Home Address (Street, City, State, Zip)
Spouse (Guardianship of the estate only)	_____	_____
Person nominated as guardian of this child (if someone other than a proposed guardian named in ③)	_____	_____
Indian custodian (if any)	_____	_____
Child's tribe (if any and if known)	_____	_____

☐ (Check here if there is more than one tribe that the child may be eligible for membership in, and list the names and addresses on a separate sheet of paper. Write "Form GC-210(CA)," the name of the child, and "Attachment 2: Child's tribes" at the top of the paper and attach it to this form.)

3 Information about the proposed guardian:

a. Name (name all proposed guardians if more than one):

b. Relationship(s) to the child named in ① (check all that apply):

☐ Relative (specify relationship(s) to the child of each proposed relative guardian):

☐ Not a relative (explain interest in or connection to this child):

c. Did the child's parent(s) nominate the proposed guardian(s)? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ I don't know
(If you checked "Yes," attach the written nomination as Attachment 3c.)

d. Does this child currently live with the proposed guardian(s)? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ I don't know
If "Yes," how long has the child lived with the proposed guardian(s)? (years, months): _____

e. If the court approves the guardianship, will this child live with the proposed guardian(s)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

f. Does/do the proposed guardian(s) currently plan to adopt this child? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ I don't know

4 Explain why appointing a guardian for the child named in ① would be in the child's best interest:

☐ (Check here if you need more space. Continue your explanation on a separate sheet of paper. Write "Form GC-210(CA)," the name of this child, and "Attachment 4: Guardianship—Best Interest of Child" at the top of the paper and attach it to this form.)



Guardianship of (all children's names): _____

Case Number: _____

This child's name: _____

5 Explain why appointing the person named in 3 to be this child's guardian would be in the child's best interest:

☐ (Check here if you need more space. Continue your explanation on a separate sheet of paper. Write "Form GC-210(CA)," the name of this child, and "Attachment 5: Proposed Guardian—Best Interest of Child" at the top of the paper and attach it to this form.)

6 a. Does one or do both of this child's parents agree:

(1) That the court needs to appoint a guardian for the child?

Parent (name): _____ ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ I don't know

Parent (name): _____ ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ I don't know

(2) That the person named in 3 should be the child's guardian?

Parent (name): _____ ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ I don't know

Parent (name): _____ ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ I don't know

b. If the child is an Indian child and in the care and custody of an Indian custodian, does the Indian custodian agree:

(1) That the court needs to appoint a guardian for the child?

Custodian (name): _____ ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ I don't know

(2) That the person named in 3 should be the child's guardian?

Custodian (name): _____ ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ I don't know

7 ☐ Check this box if you (the petitioner) are not the person named in 3, and fill in below.

Your relationship to this child:

☐ Relative (specify relationship): _____

☐ Not a relative (explain your interest in or connection to this child):

8 Except as otherwise stated in this form, the statements made in the petition to which this form is attached fully apply to this child.

CHILD'S NAME:	CASE NUMBER:
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1. Name of child:

2. (Check one)

☐ I have not yet been able to complete the inquiry about the child's Indian status because:

I understand that I have an affirmative and continuing duty to complete this inquiry. I will do it as soon as possible and advise the court of my efforts.

☐ I have asked or ☐ I am advised by _____ and on information and belief confirm that this person has completed inquiry by asking the child, the child's parents, and other required and available persons about the child's Indian status. The person(s) questioned are:

Name:

Name:

Address:

Address:

City, state, zip:

City, state, zip:

Telephone:

Telephone:

Date questioned:

Date questioned:

Relationship to child:

Relationship to child:

☐ Additional persons questioned and their information is attached.

3. This inquiry (check one):

☐ gave me reason to believe the child is or may be an Indian child. (If yes, continue to 4.)

☐ gave me no reason to believe the child is or may be an Indian child.

4. ☐ I contacted the tribe(s) that the child may be affiliated with and worked with them to establish whether the child is a member or eligible for membership in the tribe(s). Information detailing the tribes contacted, the names of the individuals contacted, and the manner of the contacts is attached.

5. Based on inquiry and tribal contacts (check all that apply):

a. ☐ The child is or may be a member of or eligible for membership in a tribe.

Name of tribe(s):

Location of tribe(s):

b. ☐ The child's parents, grandparents, or great-grandparents are or were members of a tribe.

Name of tribe(s):

Location of tribe(s):

c. ☐ The residence or domicile of the child, child's parents, or Indian custodian is on a reservation, rancheria, Alaska Native village or other tribal trust land.

d. ☐ The child or the child's family has received services or benefits from a tribe or services that are available to Indians from tribes or the federal government, such as the Indian Health Service or Tribal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF).

e. ☐ The child is or has been a ward of a tribal court.

Name of tribe(s):

Location of tribe(s):

f. ☐ Either parent or the child possesses an Indian Identification card indicating membership or citizenship in an Indian tribe.

Name of tribe(s):

Location of tribe(s):

6. If this is a delinquency proceeding under Welfare and Institutions Code section 601 or 602:

☐ The child is in foster care.

☐ It is probable the child will be entering foster care.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date:

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)

(SIGNATURE)

Page 1 of 1

CONFIDENTIAL (DO NOT ATTACH TO PETITION)

GC-212

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY (Name, State Bar number, and address):		FOR COURT USE ONLY	
TELEPHONE NO.: FAX NO. (Optional):			
E-MAIL ADDRESS (Optional):			
ATTORNEY FOR (Name):			
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF Fresno STREET ADDRESS: 1130 O Street MAILING ADDRESS: CITY AND ZIP CODE: Fresno, CA. 93724 BRANCH NAME: Probate Division			
GUARDIANSHIP OF (Name):		CASE NUMBER:	
MINOR			
CONFIDENTIAL GUARDIAN SCREENING FORM Guardianship of <input type="checkbox"/> Person <input type="checkbox"/> Estate		HEARING DATE AND TIME:	DEPT.: 97A

The proposed guardian must complete and sign this form. The person requesting appointment of a guardian must submit the completed and signed form to the court with the guardianship petition.

This form must remain confidential.

How This Form Will Be Used

This form is **confidential** and will not be a part of the public file in this case. Each proposed guardian must complete and sign a separate copy of this form under rule 7.1001 of the California Rules of Court. The information provided will be used by the court and by persons and agencies designated by the court to assist the court in determining whether to appoint the proposed guardian as guardian. The proposed guardian **must** respond to each item.

1. a. **Proposed guardian (name):**
 b. Date of birth:
 c. Social security number:
 e. Telephone numbers: Home: Work: Other:
 d. Driver's license number: State:
2. ☐ I am ☐ I am not required to register as a sex offender under California Penal Code section 290.
 (If you checked "I am," explain in Attachment 2.)
3. ☐ I have ☐ I have not been charged with, arrested for, or convicted of a crime deemed to be a felony or a misdemeanor. (If you checked "I have," explain in Attachment 3.)
☐ (Check here if you have been arrested for drug or alcohol-related offenses.)
4. ☐ I have ☐ I have not had a restraining order or protective order filed against me in the last 10 years.
 (If you checked "I have," explain in Attachment 4.)
5. ☐ I am ☐ I am not receiving services from a psychiatrist, psychologist, or therapist for a mental health-related issue. (If you checked "I am," explain in Attachment 5.)
6. Do you, or does any other person living in your home, have a social worker or parole or probation officer assigned to him or her?
☐ Yes ☐ No (If you checked "Yes," explain in Attachment 6 and provide the name and address of each social worker, parole officer, or probation officer.)
7. Have you, or has any other person living in your home, been charged with, arrested for, or convicted of any form of child abuse, neglect, or molestation? ☐ Yes ☐ No (If you checked "Yes," explain in Attachment 7.)
8. ☐ I am ☐ I am not aware of any reports alleging any form of child abuse, neglect, or molestation made to any agency charged with protecting children (e.g., Child Protective Services) or any other law enforcement agency regarding me or any other person living in my home. (If you checked "I am," explain in Attachment 8 and provide the name and address of each agency.)
9. Have you, or has any other person living in your home, habitually used any illegal substances or abused alcohol?
☐ Yes ☐ No (If you checked "Yes," explain in Attachment 9.)

Page 1 of 2

GUARDIANSHIP OF (Name): <div align="right">MINOR</div>	CASE NUMBER:
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10. Have you, or has any other person living in your home, been charged with, arrested for, or convicted of a crime involving illegal substances or alcohol?
☐ Yes ☐ No *(If you checked "Yes," explain in Attachment 10.)*
11. Do you or does any other person living in your home suffer from mental illness?
☐ Yes ☐ No *(If you checked "Yes," explain in Attachment 11.)*
12. Do you suffer from any physical disability that would impair your ability to perform the duties of guardian?
☐ Yes ☐ No *(If you checked "Yes," explain in Attachment 12.)*
13. ☐ I have or may have ☐ I do not have an adverse interest that the court may consider to be a risk to, or to have an effect on, my ability to faithfully perform the duties of guardian.
(If you checked "I have or may have," explain in Attachment 13.)
14. ☐ I have ☐ I have not previously been appointed guardian, conservator, executor, or fiduciary in another proceeding.
(If you checked "I have," explain in Attachment 14.)
15. ☐ I have ☐ I have not been removed as guardian, conservator, executor, or fiduciary in any other proceeding.
(If you checked "I have," explain in Attachment 15.)
16. ☐ I am ☐ I am not a private professional fiduciary, as defined in Business and Professions Code section 6501(f).
(If you checked "I am," respond to item 17. If you checked "I am not," go to item 18.)
17. ☐ I am ☐ I am not currently licensed by the Professional Fiduciaries Bureau of the Department of Consumer Affairs. My license status and information is stated in item 1 on page 1 of the Professional Fiduciary Attachment signed by me and attached to the petition that proposes my appointment as guardian in this matter. *(Complete and sign the Professional Fiduciary Attachment and attach it to the petition, or deliver it to the petitioner for attachment, before the petition is filed. See item 4d of the petition. Use form GC-210(A-PF)/GC-310(A-PF) for this attachment.)*
18. ☐ I am ☐ I am not a responsible corporate officer authorized to act for (name of corporation):

 a California nonprofit charitable corporation that meets the requirements for appointment as guardian of the proposed ward under Probate Code section 2104. I certify that the corporation's articles of incorporation specifically authorize it to accept appointments as guardian. *(If you checked "I am," explain the circumstances of the corporation's care of, counseling of, or financial assistance to the proposed ward in Attachment 18.)*
19. ☐ I have ☐ I have not filed for bankruptcy protection within the last 10 years.
(If you checked "I have," explain in Attachment 19.)

MINORS' CONTACT INFORMATION

- | | | |
|--|-------------------|------------------|
| 20. Minor's name: | School (name): | |
| Home telephone: | School telephone: | Other telephone: |
| 21. Minor's name: | School (name): | |
| Home telephone: | School telephone: | Other telephone: |
| 22. Minor's name: | School (name): | |
| Home telephone: | School telephone: | Other telephone: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information on additional minors is attached. | | |

DECLARATION

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date:

 (TYPE OR PRINT NAME OF PROPOSED GUARDIAN)



 (SIGNATURE OF PROPOSED GUARDIAN)*

* Each proposed guardian must fill out and file a separate screening form.

1. **I am a party** to this proceeding to determine custody of a child.
2. ☐ My present address and the present address of each child residing with me is confidential under Family Code section 3429 as I have indicated in item 3.
3. There are (*specify number*): _____ minor children who are subject to this proceeding, as follows:
(Insert the information requested below. The residence information must be given for the last FIVE years.)

a. Child's name		Place of birth		Date of birth		Sex	
Period of residence		Address		Person child lived with (<i>name and complete current address</i>)		Relationship	
to present		<input type="checkbox"/> Confidential		<input type="checkbox"/> Confidential			
to		Child's residence (<i>City, State</i>)		Person child lived with (<i>name and complete current address</i>)			
to		Child's residence (<i>City, State</i>)		Person child lived with (<i>name and complete current address</i>)			
to		Child's residence (<i>City, State</i>)		Person child lived with (<i>name and complete current address</i>)			
b. Child's name		Place of birth		Date of birth		Sex	
<input type="checkbox"/> Residence information is the same as given above for child a. (If NOT the same, provide the information below.)							
Period of residence		Address		Person child lived with (<i>name and complete current address</i>)		Relationship	
to present		<input type="checkbox"/> Confidential		<input type="checkbox"/> Confidential			
to		Child's residence (<i>City, State</i>)		Person child lived with (<i>name and complete current address</i>)			
to		Child's residence (<i>City, State</i>)		Person child lived with (<i>name and complete current address</i>)			
to		Child's residence (<i>City, State</i>)		Person child lived with (<i>name and complete current address</i>)			

- c. ☐ Additional residence information for a child listed in item a or b is continued on attachment 3c.
- d. ☐ Additional children are listed on form *FL-105(A)/GC-120(A)*. (Provide all requested information for additional children.)

SHORT TITLE:	CASE NUMBER:
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4. Do you have information about, or have you participated as a party or as a witness or in some other capacity in, another court case or custody or visitation proceeding, in California or elsewhere, concerning a child subject to this proceeding?

☐ Yes ☐ No (If yes, attach a copy of the orders (if you have one) and provide the following information):

Proceeding	Case number	Court (name, state, location)	Court order or judgment (date)	Name of each child	Your connection to the case	Case status
a. <input type="checkbox"/> Family						
b. <input type="checkbox"/> Guardianship						
c. <input type="checkbox"/> Other						

Proceeding	Case Number	Court (name, state, location)
d. <input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile Delinquency/ Juvenile Dependency		
e. <input type="checkbox"/> Adoption		

5. ☐ One or more domestic violence restraining/protective orders are now in effect. (Attach a copy of the orders if you have one and provide the following information):

Court	County	State	Case number (if known)	Orders expire (date)
a. <input type="checkbox"/> Criminal				
b. <input type="checkbox"/> Family				
c. <input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile Delinquency/ Juvenile Dependency				
d. <input type="checkbox"/> Other				

6. Do you know of any person who is not a party to this proceeding who has physical custody or claims to have custody of or visitation rights with any child in this case? ☐ Yes ☐ No (If yes, provide the following information):

<p>a. Name and address of person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Has physical custody <input type="checkbox"/> Claims custody rights <input type="checkbox"/> Claims visitation rights</p> <p>Name of each child</p>	<p>b. Name and address of person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Has physical custody <input type="checkbox"/> Claims custody rights <input type="checkbox"/> Claims visitation rights</p> <p>Name of each child</p>	<p>c. Name and address of person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Has physical custody <input type="checkbox"/> Claims custody rights <input type="checkbox"/> Claims visitation rights</p> <p>Name of each child</p>
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I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date:

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)

(SIGNATURE OF DECLARANT)

7. ☐ Number of pages attached: _____

NOTICE TO DECLARANT: You have a continuing duty to inform this court if you obtain any information about a custody proceeding in a California court or any other court concerning a child subject to this proceeding.

CASE NAME: 	CASE NUMBER:
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**ATTACHMENT TO
DECLARATION UNDER UNIFORM CHILD CUSTODY JURISDICTION AND ENFORCEMENT ACT (UCCJEA)**

<input type="checkbox"/> Child's name <input type="checkbox"/> Residence information is the same as given on form FL-105/GC-120 for child a. (If NOT the same, provide the information below.)		Place of birth	Date of birth	Sex
Period of residence to present	Present address <input type="checkbox"/> Confidential	Person child lived with (name and complete current address) <input type="checkbox"/> Confidential	Relationship	
to	Child's residence (City, State)	Person child lived with (name and complete current address)		
to	Child's residence (City, State)	Person child lived with (name and complete current address)		
to	Child's residence (City, State)	Person child lived with (name and complete current address)		

<input type="checkbox"/> Child's name <input type="checkbox"/> Residence information is the same as given on form FL-105/GC-120 for child a. (If NOT the same, provide the information below.)		Place of birth	Date of birth	Sex
Period of residence to present	Address <input type="checkbox"/> Confidential	Person child lived with (name and complete current address) <input type="checkbox"/> Confidential	Relationship	
to	Child's residence (City, State)	Person child lived with (name and complete current address)		
to	Child's residence (City, State)	Person child lived with (name and complete current address)		
to	Child's residence (City, State)	Person child lived with (name and complete current address)		

<input type="checkbox"/> Child's name <input type="checkbox"/> Residence information is the same as given on form FL-105/GC-120 for child a. (If NOT the same, provide the information below.)		Place of birth	Date of birth	Sex
Period of residence to present	Address <input type="checkbox"/> Confidential	Person child lived with (name and complete current address) <input type="checkbox"/> Confidential	Relationship	
to	Child's residence (City, State)	Person child lived with (name and complete current address)		
to	Child's residence (City, State)	Person child lived with (name and complete current address)		
to	Child's residence (City, State)	Person child lived with (name and complete current address)		

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY (Name, state bar number, and address): TELEPHONE NO.: _____ FAX NO. (Optional): _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS (Optional): _____ ATTORNEY FOR (Name): _____	FOR COURT USE ONLY
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF Fresno STREET ADDRESS: 1130 O Street MAILING ADDRESS: CITY AND ZIP CODE: Fresno, CA. 93724 BRANCH NAME: Probate Division	
GUARDIANSHIP OF THE <input type="checkbox"/> PERSON <input type="checkbox"/> ESTATE OF (Name): _____ MINOR	
DUTIES OF GUARDIAN and Acknowledgment of Receipt	

DUTIES OF GUARDIAN

When you are appointed by the court as a guardian of a minor, you become an officer of the court and assume certain duties and obligations. An attorney is best qualified to advise you about these matters. You should clearly understand the information on this form. You will find additional information in the *Guardianship Pamphlet (for Guardianships of Children in the Probate Court)* (Form GC-205), which is available from the court.

1. GUARDIANSHIP OF THE PERSON

If the probate court appoints you as a *guardian of the person* for a child, you will be required to assume important duties and obligations.

- a. **Fundamental responsibilities** - The guardian of the person of a child has the care, custody, and control of the child. As guardian, you are responsible for providing for food, clothing, shelter, education, and all the medical and dental needs of the child. You must provide for the safety, protection, and physical and emotional growth of the child.
- b. **Custody** - As guardian of the person of the child, you have full legal and physical custody of the child and are responsible for **all** decisions relating to the child. The child's parents can no longer make decisions for the child while there is a guardianship. The parents' rights are suspended—not terminated—as long as a guardian is appointed for a minor.
- c. **Education** - As guardian of the person of the child, you are responsible for the child's education. You determine where the child should attend school. As the child's advocate within the school system, you should attend conferences and play an active role in the child's education. For younger children, you may want to consider enrolling the child in Head Start or other similar programs. For older children, you should consider their future educational needs such as college or a specialized school. You must assist the child in obtaining services if the child has special educational needs. You should help the child in setting and attaining his or her educational goals.
- d. **Residence** - As guardian, you have the right to determine where the child lives. The child will normally live with you, but when it is necessary, you are allowed to make other arrangements if it is in the best interest of the child. You should obtain court approval before placing the child back with his or her parents.

As guardian, you **do not** have the right to change the child's residence to a place outside of California unless you first receive the court's permission. If the court grants permission, California law requires that you establish legal guardianship in the state where the child will be living. Individual states have different rules regarding guardianships. You should seek additional information about guardianships in the state where you want the child to live.

(Continued on reverse)

GUARDIAN OF (Name):	MINOR	CASE NUMBER:
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- e. **Medical treatment** - As guardian, you are responsible for meeting the medical needs of the child. In most cases, you have the authority to consent to the child's medical treatment. However, if the child is 14 years or older, surgery may not be performed on the child unless either (1) both the child and the guardian consent or (2) a court order is obtained that specifically authorizes the surgery. This holds true except in emergencies. A guardian may not place a child involuntarily in a mental health treatment facility under a probate guardianship. A mental health conservatorship proceeding is required for such an involuntary commitment. However, the guardian may secure counseling and other necessary mental health services for the child. The law also allows older and more mature children to consent to their own treatment in certain situations such as outpatient mental health treatment, medical care related to pregnancy or sexually transmitted diseases, and drug and alcohol treatment.
- f. **Community resources** - There are agencies in each county that may be helpful in meeting the specific needs of children who come from conflicted, troubled, or deprived environments. If the child has special needs, you must strive to meet those needs or secure appropriate services.
- g. **Financial support** - Even when the child has a guardian, the parents are still obligated to financially support the child. The guardian may take action to obtain child support. The child may also be eligible for Temporary Aid for Needy Families, TANF (formerly known as AFDC), social security benefits, Veterans Administration benefits, Indian child welfare benefits, and other public or private funds.
- h. **Visitation** - The court may require that you allow visitation or contact between the child and his or her parents. The child's needs often require that the parent-child relationship be maintained, within reason. However, the court may place restrictions on the visits, such as the requirement of supervision. The court may also impose other conditions in the child's best interest.
- i. **Driver's license** - As guardian of the person, you have the authority to consent to the minor's application for a driver's license. If you consent, you will become liable for any civil damages that may result if the minor causes an accident. The law requires that anyone signing the DMV application obtain insurance to cover the minor.
- j. **Enlistment in the armed services** - The guardian may consent to a minor's enlistment in the armed services. If the minor enters into active duty with the armed forces, the minor becomes emancipated under California law.
- k. **Marriage** - For the minor to marry, the guardian **and the court** must give permission. If the minor enters a valid marriage, the minor becomes emancipated under California law.
- l. **Change of address** - A guardian must notify the court in writing of any change in the address of either the child or the guardian. This includes any changes that result from the child's leaving the guardian's home or returning to the parent's home. You **must** always obtain **court permission** before you move the child to another state or country.
- m. **Court visitors and status reports** - Some counties have a program in which "court visitors" track and review guardianships. If your county has such a program, you will be expected to cooperate with all requests of the court visitor. As guardian, you may also be required to fill out and file status reports. In all counties, you must cooperate with the court and court investigators.
- n. **Misconduct of the child** - A guardian, like a parent, is liable for the harm and damages caused by the willful misconduct of a child. There are special rules concerning harm caused by the use of a firearm. If you are concerned about your possible liability, you should consult an attorney.
- o. **Additional responsibilities** - The court may place other conditions on the guardianship or additional duties upon you, as guardian. For example, the court may require the guardian to complete counseling or parenting classes, to obtain specific services for the child, or to follow a scheduled visitation plan between the child and the child's parents or relatives. As guardian, you must follow all court orders.

(Continued on page three)

GUARDIAN OF (Name):	MINOR	CASE NUMBER:
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- p. **Termination of guardianship of the person** - A guardianship of the person automatically ends when the child reaches the age of 18, is adopted, marries, is emancipated by court order, enters into active military duty, or dies. If none of these events has occurred, the child, a parent, or the guardian may petition the court for termination of guardianship. But it must be shown that the guardianship is no longer necessary or that termination of the guardianship is in the child's best interest.

2. GUARDIANSHIP OF THE ESTATE

If the court appoints you as *guardian of the child's estate*, you will have additional duties and obligations. The money and other assets of the child are called the child's "estate." Appointment as guardian of a child's estate is taken very seriously by the court. The guardian of the estate is required to manage the child's funds, collect and make an inventory of the assets, keep accurate financial records, and regularly file financial accountings with the court.

MANAGING THE ESTATE

- a. **Prudent investments** - As guardian of the estate, you must manage the child's assets with the care of a prudent person dealing with someone else's property. This means that you must be cautious and may not make speculative or risky investments.
- b. **Keeping estate assets separate** - As guardian of the estate, you must keep the money and property of the child's estate separate from everyone else's, including your own. When you open a bank account for the estate, the account name must indicate that it is a *guardianship* account and not your personal account. You should use the child's social security number when opening estate accounts. You should never deposit estate funds in your personal account or otherwise mix them with your own funds or anyone else's funds, even for brief periods. Securities in the estate must be held in a name that shows that they are estate property and not your personal property.
- c. **Interest-bearing accounts and other investments** - Except for checking accounts intended for ordinary expenses, you should place estate funds in interest-bearing accounts. You may deposit estate funds in insured accounts in federally insured financial institutions, but you should not put more than \$100,000 in any single institution. You should consult with an attorney before making other kinds of investments.
- d. **Blocked accounts** - A *blocked account* is an account with a financial institution in which money is placed. No person may withdraw funds from a blocked account without the court's permission. Depending on the amount and character of the child's property, the guardian may elect **or the court may require** that estate assets be placed in a blocked account. As guardian of the estate, you must follow the directions of the court and the procedures required to deposit funds in this type of account. The use of a blocked account is a safeguard and may save the estate the cost of a bond.
- e. **Other restrictions** - As guardian of the estate, you will have many other restrictions on your authority to deal with estate assets. Without prior court order, you **may not** pay fees to yourself or your attorney. You may not make a gift of estate assets to anyone. You may not borrow money from the estate. As guardian, you may not use estate funds to purchase real property without a prior court order. If you do not obtain the court's permission to spend estate funds, you may be compelled to reimburse the estate from your own personal funds and may be removed as guardian. You should consult with an attorney concerning the legal requirements relating to sales, leases, mortgages, and investment of estate property. If the child of whose estate you are the guardian has a living parent or if that child receives assets or is entitled to support from another source, you must obtain court approval before using guardianship assets for the child's support, maintenance, or education. You must file a petition or include a request for approval in the original petition, and set forth which exceptional circumstances justify any use of guardianship assets for the child's support. The court will ordinarily grant such a petition for only a limited period of time, usually not to exceed one year, and only for specific and limited purposes.

INVENTORY OF ESTATE PROPERTY

- f. **Locate the estate's property** - As guardian of the estate, you must locate, take possession of, and protect the child's income and assets that will be administered in the estate. You must change the ownership of all assets into the guardianship estate's name. For real estate, you should record a copy of your *Letters of Guardianship* with the county recorder in each county where the child owns real property.

(Continued on reverse)

GUARDIAN OF (Name):	MINOR	CASE NUMBER:
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- g. **Determine the value of the property** - As guardian of the estate, you must arrange to have a court-appointed referee determine the value of the estate property unless the appointment is waived by the court. You—not the referee—must determine the value of certain "cash items." An attorney can advise you about how to do this.
- h. **File an inventory and appraisal** - As guardian of the estate, you must file an inventory and appraisal within 90 days after your appointment. You may be required to return to court 90 days after your appointment as guardian of the estate to ensure that you have properly filed the inventory and appraisal.

INSURANCE

- i. **Insurance coverage** - As guardian of the estate, you should make sure that there is appropriate and sufficient insurance covering the assets and risks of the estate. You should maintain the insurance in force throughout the entire period of the guardianship or until the insured asset is sold.

RECORD KEEPING AND ACCOUNTING

- j. **Records** - As guardian of the estate, you must keep complete, accurate records of each financial transaction affecting the estate. The checkbook for the guardianship checking account is essential for keeping records of income and expenditures. You should also keep receipts for all purchases. Record keeping is critical because you will have to prepare an accounting of all money and property that you have received, what you have spent, the date of each transaction, and its purpose. You will also have to be able to describe in detail what is left after you have paid the estate's expenses.
- k. **Accountings** - As guardian of the estate, you must file a petition requesting that the court review and approve your accounting one year after your appointment and at least every two years after that. The court may ask that you justify some or all expenditures. You should have receipts and other documents available for the court's review, if requested. If you do not file your accounting as required, the court will order you to do so. You may be removed as guardian for failure to file an accounting.
- l. **Format** - As guardian of the estate, you must comply with all state and local rules when filing your accounting. A particular format is specified in the Probate Code, which you must follow when you present your account to the court. You should check local rules for any special local requirements.
- m. **Legal advice** - An attorney can advise you and help you prepare your inventories, accountings, and petitions to the court. If you have questions, you should consult with an attorney.

3. OTHER GENERAL INFORMATION

- a. **Removal of a guardian** - A guardian may be removed for specific reasons or when it is in the child's best interest. A guardian may be removed either on the court's own motion or by a petition filed by the child, a relative of the child, or any other interested person. If necessary, the court may appoint a successor guardian, or the court may return the child to a parent if that is found to be in the child's best interest.
- b. **Legal documents** - For your appointment as guardian to be valid, the *Order Appointing Guardian of Minor* must be signed. Once the court signs the order, the guardian **must** go to the clerk's office, where *Letters of Guardianship* will be issued. *Letters of Guardianship* is a legal document that provides proof that you have been appointed and are serving as the guardian of a minor. You should obtain several certified copies of the *Letters* from the clerk. These legal documents will be of assistance to you in the performance of your duties, such as enrolling the child in school, obtaining medical care, and taking care of estate business.
- c. **Attorneys and legal resources** - If you have an attorney, the attorney will advise you on your duties and responsibilities, the limits of your authority, the rights of the child, and your dealings with the court. **If you have legal questions, you should consult with your attorney.** Please remember that the court staff cannot give you legal advice.

(Continued on page five)

GUARDIAN OF (Name):

MINOR

CASE NUMBER:

If you are not represented by an attorney, you may obtain answers to your questions by contacting community resources, private publications, or your local law library.

NOTICE: This statement of duties is a summary and is not a complete statement of the law. Your conduct as a probate guardian is governed by the law itself and not by this summary.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT

1. I have petitioned the court to be appointed as a guardian.
2. I acknowledge that I have received a copy of this statement of the duties of the position of guardian.

Date:

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)

(SIGNATURE OF PETITIONER)

Date:

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)

(SIGNATURE OF PETITIONER)

Date:

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)

(SIGNATURE OF PETITIONER)

1. The petition for appointment of a guardian or extension of a guardianship of the person came on for hearing as follows
(check boxes c, d, and e to indicate personal presence):
- a. Judge (name): _____
- b. Hearing date: _____ Time: _____ Dept.: _____ Room: _____
- c. ☐ Petitioner (name): _____
- d. ☐ Attorney for Petitioner (name): _____
- e. ☐ Attorney for (proposed) ward (name, address, e-mail, and telephone): _____

2. a. ☐ All notices required by law have been given.
b. ☐ Notice of hearing to the following persons ☐ has been ☐ should be dispensed with
(names):
3. ☐ Appointment of a guardian of the ☐ person ☐ estate of the proposed ward is necessary or convenient.
(NOTE: The Probate Code does not authorize the appointment of a guardian of the estate for a proposed ward 18 years of age or older.)
4. ☐ Extension of the guardianship of the person past the ward's 18th birthday is necessary or convenient.
5. ☐ Granting the guardian powers to be exercised independently under Probate Code section 2590 is to the advantage and benefit and is in the best interest of the guardianship estate.
6. ☐ Attorney (name): _____ has been appointed by the court as legal
counsel to represent the (proposed) ward in these proceedings. The cost for representation is: \$ _____
7. ☐ The appointed court investigator, probation officer, or domestic relations investigator is (name, title, address, and telephone): _____

Page 1 of 3

GUARDIANSHIP OF THE <input type="checkbox"/> PERSON <input type="checkbox"/> ESTATE OF (name):	CASE NUMBER:
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THE COURT ORDERS

8. a. ☐ (name):
(address): (telephone):

is appointed guardian of the PERSON of (name):
and *Letters* shall issue upon qualification.

b. (Not applicable to a proposed ward 18 years of age or older.)

☐ (name):
(address): (telephone):

is appointed guardian of the ESTATE of (name):
and *Letters* shall issue upon qualification.

c. ☐ The appointment of
(name):
(address): (telephone):

as guardian of the PERSON of (name):
is extended past the ward's 18th birthday and new *Letters* shall issue forthwith.

9. ☐ Notice of hearing to the persons named in item 2b is dispensed with.

10. a. ☐ Bond is not required.

b. ☐ Bond is fixed at: \$ to be furnished by an authorized surety company or as otherwise provided by law.

c. ☐ Deposits of: \$ are ordered to be placed in a blocked account at (specify institution and location):

and receipts shall be filed. No withdrawals shall be made without a court order.

☐ Additional orders in Attachment 10c.

d. ☐ The guardian is not authorized to take possession of money or any other property without a specific court order.

11. ☐ For legal services rendered on behalf of the (proposed) ward, ☐ the parents of the (proposed) ward

☐ the (proposed) ward's estate shall pay to (name):

the sum of: \$

☐ forthwith ☐ as follows (specify terms, including any combination of payers):

12. ☐ The guardian of the estate is granted authorization under Probate Code section 2590 to exercise independently the powers specified in Attachment 12 ☐ subject to the conditions provided.

13. ☐ Orders are granted relating to the powers and duties of the guardian of the person under Probate Code sections 2351–2358 as specified in Attachment 13.

GUARDIANSHIP OF THE <input type="checkbox"/> PERSON <input type="checkbox"/> ESTATE OF (name):	CASE NUMBER:
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14. ☐ Orders are granted relating to the conditions imposed under Probate Code section 2402 upon the guardian of the estate as specified in Attachment 14.

15. ☐ Other orders as specified in Attachment 15 are granted.

16. ☐ The probate referee appointed is (name and address):

17. Number of boxes checked in items 9–16: _____

18. Number of pages attached: _____

Date:

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

☐ SIGNATURE FOLLOWS LAST ATTACHMENT

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY NAME: FIRM NAME: STREET ADDRESS: CITY: STATE: ZIP CODE: TELEPHONE NO.: FAX NO.: E-MAIL ADDRESS: ATTORNEY FOR (name):	FOR COURT USE ONLY
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF Fresno STREET ADDRESS: 1130 O Street MAILING ADDRESS: CITY AND ZIP CODE: Fresno, CA. 93724 BRANCH NAME: Probate Division	
GUARDIANSHIP OF (name):	
LETTERS OF GUARDIANSHIP <input type="checkbox"/> Person <input type="checkbox"/> Estate	CASE NUMBER:

LETTERS

1. ☐ (Name): _____ is appointed guardian of the ☐ person ☐ estate
of (name): _____
2. ☐ The appointment of (name): _____ as guardian of the person of
(name): _____
is extended past the ward's 18th birthday as of (date): _____
3. ☐ Other powers have been granted and conditions have been imposed as follows:
 - a. ☐ Powers to be exercised independently under Probate Code section 2590 are specified in attachment 3a (specify powers, restrictions, conditions, and limitations).
 - b. ☐ Conditions relating to the care and custody of the property under Probate Code section 2402 are specified in attachment 3b.
 - c. ☐ Conditions relating to the care, treatment, education, and welfare of the ward under Probate Code section 2358 are specified in attachment 3c.
 - d. ☐ Other powers granted or conditions imposed are ☐ specified on attachment 3d ☐ specified below.
4. ☐ The guardian is not authorized to take possession of money or any other property without a specific court order.
5. The guardianship of the person terminates by operation of law on (date): _____
6. Number of pages attached: _____

WITNESS, clerk of the court, with seal of the court affixed.

(SEAL)	Date: _____
	Clerk, by _____, Deputy

GUARDIANSHIP OF
(name):

CASE NUMBER:

NOTICE TO INSTITUTIONS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

(Probate Code sections 2890–2893)

When these *Letters of Guardianship* (Letters) are delivered to you as an employee or other representative of an *institution* or *financial institution* (described below) in order for the guardian of the estate (1) to take possession or control of an asset of the minor named above held by your institution (including changing title, withdrawing all or any portion of the asset, or transferring all or any portion of the asset) or (2) to open or change the name of an account or a safe-deposit box in your financial institution to reflect the guardianship, you must fill out Judicial Council form GC-050 (for an institution) or form GC-051 (for a financial institution). An officer authorized by your institution or financial institution must date and sign the form, and you must file the completed form with the court.

There is no filing fee for filing the form. You may either arrange for personal delivery of the form or mail it to the court for filing at the address given for the court on page 1 of these Letters.

The guardian should deliver a blank copy of the appropriate form to you with these Letters, but it is your institution's or financial institution's responsibility to complete the correct form, have an authorized officer sign it, and file the completed form with the court. If the correct form is not delivered with these Letters or is unavailable for any other reason, blank copies of the forms may be obtained from the court. The forms may also be accessed from the judicial branch's public website free of charge. The Internet address (URL) is www.courts.ca.gov/forms.htm. Select the form group *Probate—Guardianships and Conservatorships* and scroll down to form GC-050 for an institution or form GC-051 for a financial institution. The forms may be printed out as blank forms and filled in by typewriter (nonfillable form) or may be filled out online and printed out ready for signature and filing (fillable form).

An *institution* under California Probate Code section 2890(c) is an insurance company, insurance broker, insurance agent, investment company, investment bank, securities broker-dealer, investment advisor, financial planner, financial advisor, or any other person who takes, holds, or controls an asset subject to a conservatorship or guardianship other than a financial institution. Institutions must file a *Notice of Taking Possession or Control of an Asset of Minor or Conservatee* (form GC-050) for an asset of the minor or conservatee held by the institution. A single form may be filed for all affected assets held by the institution.

A *financial institution* under California Probate Code section 2892(b) is a bank, trust (including a Totten trust account but excluding other trust arrangements described in Probate Code section 82(b)), savings and loan association, savings bank, industrial bank, or credit union. Financial institutions must file a *Notice of Opening or Changing a Guardianship or Conservatorship Account or Safe-Deposit Box* (form GC-051) for an account or a safe-deposit box held by the financial institution. A single form may be filed for all affected accounts or safe-deposit boxes held by the financial institution.

LETTERS OF GUARDIANSHIP**AFFIRMATION**

I solemnly affirm that I will perform according to law the duties of guardian.

Executed on (date): _____, at (place): _____

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)

(SIGNATURE OF APPOINTEE)

CERTIFICATION

I certify that this document, including any attachments, is a correct copy of the original on file in my office, and that the Letters issued to the person appointed above have not been revoked, annulled, or set aside, and are still in full force and effect.

(SEAL)

Date:

Clerk, by _____, Deputy

TELEPHONE NO.:

E-MAIL ADDRESS (Optional):

ATTORNEY FOR (Name):

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF Fresno

STREET ADDRESS: 1130 O Street

MAILING ADDRESS:

CITY AND ZIP CODE: Fresno, CA. 93724

BRANCH NAME: **Probate Division**

☐ GUARDIANSHIP ☐ CONSERVATORSHIP OF THE ☐ PERSON ☐ ESTATE
OF (Name):

☐ MINOR ☐ (PROPOSED) CONSERVATEE

NOTICE OF HEARING—GUARDIANSHIP OR CONSERVATORSHIP

CASE NUMBER:

This notice does not require you to appear in court, but you may attend the hearing if you wish.

1. NOTICE is given that (name):
(representative capacity, if any):
has filed (specify):

2. You may refer to documents on file in this proceeding for more information. (Some documents filed with the court are confidential. Under some circumstances you or your attorney may be able to see or receive copies of confidential documents if you file papers in the proceeding or apply to the court.)

3. ☐ The petition includes an application for the independent exercise of powers by a guardian or conservator under ☐ Probate Code section 2108 ☐ Probate Code section 2590.
Powers requested are ☐ specified below ☐ specified in Attachment 3.

4. A HEARING on the matter will be held as follows:

a. Date: _____ Time: 9:00 a.m. ☒ Dept.: 97A ☐ Room: _____

b. Address of court ☐ same as noted above ☒ is (specify):

Traffic Courthouse

2317 Tuolumne Street Fresno, CA. 93721

Assistive listening systems, computer-assisted real-time captioning, or sign language interpreter services are available upon request if at least 5 days notice is provided. Contact the clerk's office for *Request for Accommodations by Persons with Disabilities and Order* (form MC-410). (Civil Code section 54.8.)



Notice of the hearing on a petition for appointment of a probate guardian must include a copy of this form.

A California court can order care, custody, and control of a child transferred from a parent to another caregiver in a variety of cases. This form compares juvenile court and probate guardianship cases. In juvenile court, a foster parent, sometimes called a resource family, is a temporary caregiver. A guardian is a “permanent” caregiver. A probate court can also appoint a guardian, using different procedures and standards. The three charts in this form compare the rights and duties, available services and supports, and court processes in juvenile court and probate guardianship cases.

Charts in this form

1. **The Rights and Duties of Different Types of Caregivers, at pages 2–4**
Compares foster parents/resource families with probate guardians and juvenile court guardians
2. **The Services and Financial Support Available to Different Types of Caregivers, at pages 5–8**
Compares foster parents/resource families, probate guardians, and juvenile court guardians
3. **How a Guardian Is Appointed and What Happens Afterward, at pages 9–11**
Compares probate guardians with juvenile court guardians

For more information on probate guardianship of the person, see *Information on Probate Guardianship of the Person* (form GC-205-INFO). For information on probate guardianship of the estate, see *Information on Probate Guardianship of the Estate* (form GC-206-INFO). For more information on juvenile court guardianship, see *Information on Juvenile Court Guardianship* (form JV-350-INFO).

CAUTION: This form does not replace legal advice from a lawyer. Parents, potential caregivers, and potential guardians should consult a lawyer for answers to questions or concerns about their specific situation. Click this link, www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp-findlawyer.htm, for help finding a lawyer.

Starting a case in probate court or juvenile court

A probate guardianship case begins when a private person files a petition to appoint a guardian. A juvenile dependency case begins only if the child welfare agency files a petition. However, a private person can ask the agency to file a petition. If the agency does not, that person can ask the juvenile court to order the agency to file a petition. Even if the agency files a petition, the juvenile court can deny it if the child doesn’t meet the legal standard. If the probate court thinks a juvenile dependency case might be appropriate after a guardianship case begins but before a guardian is appointed, the court can ask the agency to file a dependency petition and, if the agency does not, can ask the juvenile court to order the agency to file a petition.

Families can also arrange for care and a place to live for a child without going to court. These arrangements are usually temporary and often involve documents such as a Caregiver’s Authorization Affidavit (see www.courts.ca.gov/documents/caregiver.pdf) or a Voluntary Placement Agreement with a child welfare agency (see www.cdss.ca.gov/cdssweb/entres/forms/english/soc155.pdf). *Information on the Probate Guardianship of the Person* (form GC-205-INFO) gives information about these arrangements.

Foster parents/resource families

If a juvenile court finds that a child cannot continue living safely at home, the court will order the child placed out of the home in the care and custody of the county child welfare agency (sometimes called *child protective services* or CPS). The agency can then place the child in the home of an approved foster parent. If a foster parent has been approved through the resource family approval (RFA) process, the foster parent is sometimes called a *resource family*, so this form uses the term “foster parent/resource family.” Approval as a foster parent/resource family is difficult and takes time. Some families will not be approved because they do not meet the strict standards.

Guardians

A guardian is an adult appointed by either the probate court or the juvenile court to take long-term care, custody, and control of a child when the child’s parents are unavailable or unable to care for the child. A relative or nonrelative can be appointed as guardian if the court finds the appointment is in the child’s best interest. In general, probate guardians have the same rights and duties as juvenile court guardians. However, probate guardians have access to different, and often fewer, financial supports, services, and resources.



1. The *Rights and Duties* of Different Types of Caregivers

Foster Parents/Resource Families	Guardians (Probate and Juvenile Court)
<p align="center">Caregiver's Fundamental Responsibilities and General Duties</p> <p>A foster parent/resource family works with child welfare agency social workers to provide care, supervision, and housing for the child.</p> <p>A foster parent/resource family receives foster care funds for the child's needs, such as food and clothing, and works with the social worker to make sure the child receives available resources and services if the child has special needs.</p>	
<p align="center">Custody and Visitation</p> <p>Physical custody of the child—that is, the right to decide where the child lives—is with the child welfare agency unless the court orders a specific placement.</p> <p>Parents retain legal custody subject to limitations set by the court.</p> <p>A foster parent/resource family must make sure the child takes part in visits and phone calls with parents and others authorized by the social worker or ordered by the court.</p> <p>A foster parent/resource family cannot, on their own, ask the court to terminate parental rights and adopt the child. They can, however, tell the social worker they would like to adopt the child.</p>	
<p align="center">Residence</p> <p>The social worker and the court decide who the child will live with.</p>	
	<p>A guardian, whether appointed by a probate court or juvenile court, has the same general rights and duties toward the child as a parent. In other words, a guardian has care, custody, and control of the child. However, the court that appoints the guardian can order the guardian to do or not to do certain things.</p> <p>The guardian is responsible for providing for food, clothing, shelter, education, and all the medical and dental needs of the child.</p> <p>The guardian must provide for the safety, protection, and physical and emotional growth of the child. Like a parent, a guardian should maintain close contact with the child's school and doctor.</p> <p>If the child has special needs, the guardian must strive to meet those needs and secure appropriate services. Some children may have physical or learning disabilities. Other children come from abusive homes or have been victims of abuse. Counseling and other services may be necessary to help these children.</p> <p>The guardian has legal and physical custody of the child.</p> <p>Parents can no longer make decisions for the child while there is a guardianship. The rights of the parents are completely suspended—but not terminated—as long as the guardianship remains in effect.</p> <p>If a guardian is appointed, a parent or other person can ask the court to order the guardian to let them visit or spend time with the child. (In juvenile court, the court must allow the parent to visit the child unless it would be <i>detrimental</i> to the child.) If the court does not make an order, the guardian can decide who visits the child.</p> <p>After the child has been in the guardian's custody for a minimum time, varying from six months to three years depending on the circumstances, the guardian may petition to terminate parental rights and adopt the child.</p> <p>A guardian decides where the child lives. The child normally will live with the guardian, but the guardian can make other arrangements if they are in the best interest of the child.</p> <p>A guardian must give proper notice to the court and others of any address change of either the child or the guardian.</p> <p>A guardian must get court permission before changing the child's residence to a place outside California.</p>

Foster Parents/Resource Families	Guardians (Probate and Juvenile Court)
Health Care	
<p>The social worker arranges care and treatment for the child's medical, dental, and mental health needs, but the foster parent/resource family might be responsible for scheduling and transporting the child to these appointments.</p> <p>Parents keep their rights to make health-care decisions for the child except in an emergency or if the court orders otherwise.</p>	<p>The guardian must make sure that the child's health-care needs are met. In most cases, the guardian has the authority to consent to the child's medical treatment. However, if the child is 14 years of age or older, surgery may not be performed on the child unless (1) both the child and the guardian consent, (2) a court order specifically authorizes the surgery, or (3) an emergency exists.</p> <p>A guardian may not place a child in a mental health treatment facility against the child's wishes. A separate legal process is required for such a placement. However, the guardian must obtain any counseling or other necessary mental health services needed by the child.</p> <p>The law also allows children to consent to certain types of treatment—including outpatient mental health treatment, medical care related to pregnancy or sexually transmitted diseases, and drug or alcohol treatment—without the consent of a parent or guardian.</p>
Education	
<p>When a child is in foster care, parents retain the rights to make educational and developmental-services decisions for the child unless the court limits these rights and assigns them to another person.</p> <p>If the court limits parental rights to make educational and developmental-services decisions, it may assign those rights to a foster parent/resource family. Otherwise, a foster parent/resource family cannot make those decisions or attend Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings for the child unless invited by the person holding educational rights.</p> <p>A foster parent/resource family is responsible for making sure that the child attends school. If the child is receiving special education services, the foster parent/resource family works with the school district and service providers to ensure that the child receives all the services and supports in the child's IEP. (See page 8 for information about financial support for children with special needs.)</p>	<p>A guardian is responsible for the child's education and holds the child's educational and developmental-services decisionmaking rights, unless the court appoints someone else to hold them. If a child needs special education and related services, the guardian must advocate for the child with the school district and make the appropriate arrangements. (See page 8 for information about financial support for children with special needs.)</p>

Foster Parents/Resource Families	Guardians (Probate and Juvenile Court)
Consent to Changes to the Child's Status	
A foster parent/resource family cannot consent to the child's marriage, military enlistment, or driver's license application, but the juvenile court can consent.	<p>A guardian <i>and the court</i> must give permission for a minor child to get married.</p> <p>A guardian may consent to a minor child's enlistment in the armed services or application for a driver's license.</p> <p>A guardian may apply for a passport for a minor child.</p>
Financial Obligations	
A foster parent/resource family receives foster care funds to pay for the child's needs.	<p>The guardian is responsible for the day-to-day financial support of the child, even though the parents are still obligated to support the child. The guardian may take legal action or contact the local child support agency to obtain child support from a parent.</p> <p>The child may also be eligible for Aid to Families with Dependent Children—Foster Care (AFDC-FC), Social Security benefits, Veterans Administration benefits, Indian child welfare benefits, and support from other public or private sources. (See Chart 2.)</p>
Legal Liability	
Except in limited circumstances, a foster parent/resource family is immune from liability in a civil action to recover damages for injury, death, or loss to person or property caused by an act or omission of a child or nonminor dependent while the child or nonminor dependent is placed in the home of the foster parent/resource family. (See Welfare and Institutions Code section 362.06(b)(2).)	A guardian, like a parent, is liable for the harm and damage caused by the willful misconduct of a child. (See Civil Code, § 1714.1(a).) There is usually a limit on how much a guardian may be required to pay. There are special rules concerning harm caused by the use of a firearm.
If you are concerned about your liability for a child's conduct, you should contact an attorney.	
Other Rights or Duties	
<p>Foster parents/resource families are entitled to notice of statutory review hearings and permanency hearings. They may attend the hearings and give information about the child to the court. Caregivers who wish to submit information in writing may use <i>Caregiver Information Form</i> (form JV-290).</p> <p>Foster parents/resource families must be included in a child's Child and Family Team (CFT) and must be notified of every CFT meeting. They may be invited to participate in or support a child's services, such as counseling or other types of treatment.</p>	<p>The court may require the guardian to perform other duties, such as completing a parenting class or attend counseling sessions with the child. The guardian must follow all court orders and cooperate with court investigators.</p> <p>Court visitors and status reports: Some counties have programs in which "court visitors" track and review guardianships. If your county has such a program, you will be expected to cooperate with all the court visitor's requests. In addition, a guardian may have to fill out and file status reports.</p>

2. The Services and Financial Support Available to Different Types of Caregivers

The payment amounts discussed below are updated annually based on the cost of living. Payments are made retroactively. For example, a child placed with a caregiver in January would receive funds for the month of January in February. The payment amounts given below are in effect from July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023. For updated amounts, see www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/letters-regulations/letters-and-notices/all-county-letters.

Foster Parent/Resource Family	Probate Guardian	Juvenile Court Guardian
Cash Payments per Child—Relatives		
<p>Before a relative is approved as a foster parent/resource family, Emergency Caregiver (EC) funding is available at the foster care basic rate starting from the date the child is placed with the relative. EC funding is limited to the foster care basic rate, \$1,129 per month.</p> <p>After approval, the foster parent/resource family will receive foster care payments through federal Aid for Families with Dependent Children—Foster Care (AFDC-FC). These payments are set at the foster care basic rate, \$1,129 per month.</p> <p>There are different eligibility requirements for federal and state AFDC-FC. The child welfare agency will determine eligibility. For a child in relative foster care who is not eligible for federal AFDC-FC or EC, Approved Relative Caregiver (ARC) payments are available. These payments are set at the foster care basic rate, \$1,129 per month.</p> <p>California foster youth who are placed with a relative out of state are eligible for funds at the foster care rate in the state where they are placed.</p>	<p>Child-only California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids Program (CalWORKs) payments are available for a child living with a relative guardian. The income of the family is considered in calculating the amount of cash aid the family receives.</p> <p>Payments are approximately one-half of the foster care basic rate paid to nonrelatives. A relative caregiver can receive this assistance before appointment as guardian if the child lives with the relative. Payments can drop below one-half of the foster care basic rate if there are multiple children in the home.</p> <p>CalWORKs Maximum Aid Payment (MAP) levels depend on variables such as geographic region and exempt/nonexempt status and are hard to calculate. From October 1, 2022, to September 30, 2024, MAP amounts for one child in California are expected to range from \$669 to \$779 per month. A social worker who specializes in benefits would be the best person to ask about MAP levels for cash aid.</p> <p>Payments end when the child turns 18 years old, but it is possible to extend payments to age 19 if the child is completing high school.</p>	<p>Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment (Kin-GAP) payments are available to children who have lived with an approved relative guardian for at least six months. Kin-GAP families sign a written agreement with the county. The Kin-GAP payments begin once the agreement is signed and the juvenile court terminates the dependency case.</p> <p>Payments cannot exceed the amount the child was receiving in foster care, but they can include the foster care basic rate and any special needs supplements the child was receiving. The income of the child's parents, Kin-GAP guardian, or any other relative living in the household is not used to determine the child's Kin-GAP eligibility.</p> <p>Kin-GAP payments generally end when a child turns 18 but can continue until age 19 if the child is completing high school or until age 21 if the Kin-GAP payments started after the child turned 16 or if the child has an ongoing disability.</p> <p>If the court keeps the juvenile case open after appointing a relative guardian, the guardian can receive Approved Relative Caregiver (ARC) or foster care payments instead of Kin-GAP.</p> <p>In very rare situations, a relative guardian may not qualify for Kin-GAP, foster care, or ARC payments, but may still qualify for California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids Program (CalWORKs) payments.</p>

Foster Parent/Resource Family	Probate Guardian	Juvenile Court Guardian
Cash Payments per Child—Nonrelatives		
<p>Before approval as a resource family, a nonrelative foster parent/resource family may receive Emergency Caregiver (EC) funding at the foster care basic rate, \$1,129 per month, starting from the date the child is placed with the nonrelative.</p> <p>After approval, the foster parent/resource family will receive foster care payments. Nonrelative resource families receive Aid to Families with Dependent Children—Foster Care (AFDC-FC) funds. There are federal and state AFDC-FC funding programs, and they have different eligibility requirements. The foster care basic rate is \$1,129 per month.</p>	<p>No cash payments are available until a guardian is appointed and the child begins living with the guardian.</p> <p>An eligible child living with a <i>nonrelative</i> probate guardian may receive state Aid to Families with Dependent Children—Foster Care (AFDC-FC) payments equivalent to the foster care basic rate, \$1,129 per month, after the court establishes a temporary guardianship.</p> <p>Payments usually end when the child turns 18 years old but may continue to age 19 if the child is completing high school or to age 21 if the child has a disability.</p>	<p>State Aid to Families with Dependent Children—Foster Care (AFDC-FC) is available to children who live with a nonrelative guardian. This rate may change depending on where you live, so before you move, ask if there will be a rate change. The foster care basic rate is \$1,129 per month.</p> <p>A youth who continues living with a former nonrelative guardian after reaching age 18 can continue to receive AFDC-FC payments until they turn 21 if they meet certain participation criteria related to work, school, or activities designed to remove barriers to employment.</p>
Medical Insurance		
<p>Children who qualify for the cash payments described above are also eligible for full-scope Medi-Cal services. Youth are eligible for Former Foster Youth Medi-Cal up to age 26.</p>	<p>A child who qualifies for CalWORKs (relative guardian) or AFDC-FC (nonrelative guardian) payments is eligible for Medi-Cal. After turning 18, a youth is <i>not</i> eligible for Former Foster Youth Medi-Cal but may qualify for Medi-Cal based on income.</p>	<p>Children who qualify for Kin-GAP, ARC, or CalWORKs payments also receive full-scope Medi-Cal health care services.</p>
Extended Foster Care and Other Transition Age Supports		
<p>Extended Foster Care benefits are available for youth living in foster care when they turn 18. These <i>nonminor dependents</i> can receive ongoing case management and EFC payments until they turn 21; they may also qualify for transitional housing and independent living placements.</p>	<p>A youth who turns 18 in a probate guardianship is <i>not</i> eligible for Extended Foster Care, Independent Living Program services, or Chafee Education and Training Vouchers.</p>	<p>Extended Foster Care benefits are <i>not</i> available for a youth who is under juvenile court guardianship when the youth turns 18 years old. But if the former guardian dies or no longer provides ongoing support to the youth, the youth can ask the juvenile court to open the dependency case again. If the court does, the youth may qualify for EFC payments if they complete the requirements.</p>

Foster Parent/Resource Family	Probate Guardian	Juvenile Court Guardian
Extended Foster Care and Other Transition Age Supports		
<p>Payment amounts vary by the type of living arrangement. They range from the foster care basic rate of \$1,129 per month to \$5,720 per month for a parenting youth living in transitional housing in a high-cost county.</p> <p>Independent Living Program funding is available for current and former foster youth up to age 21, if they were in foster care on or after they reached age 16. This funding can help youth learn household and money management and help them with education, housing, and employment.</p> <p>Chafee Education and Training Vouchers for postsecondary education are available for youth who were in foster care on or after age 16. Vouchers are worth up to \$5,000 per year.</p>	<p>However, a youth living with a former guardian and receiving CalWORKs (relative) or AFDC-FC (nonrelative) payments may continue receiving payments until age 19 if the youth is completing high school or another eligible education program or until age 21 if the youth has a disability.</p>	<p>Independent Living Program funding is available for current and former foster youth up to age 21, if they were in foster care on or after age 16, they entered into a Kin-GAP guardianship after age 16, or they entered into a nonrelated legal guardianship through juvenile court after age 8. This funding can help youth learn to manage their household and money and help them with education, housing, and employment.</p> <p>Chafee Education and Training Vouchers may be available. See the Foster Parent/Resource Family column for details.</p>
Childcare Assistance		
<p>The Emergency Child Care Bridge program provides childcare vouchers and navigation support to caregivers of children in foster care and to foster youth who have children of their own. Eligibility depends on available funding and county policy.</p>	<p>Income-based childcare assistance may be available to children in probate guardianships.</p>	<p>Emergency Child Care Bridge program benefits are not available after a guardianship is established, but income-based childcare assistance may be available.</p>
<p>California offers a variety of publicly funded childcare programs to eligible families. <i>Information on Probate Guardianship of the Person</i> (form GC-205-INFO) and <i>Information on Juvenile Court Guardianship</i> (form JV-350-INFO) give more information on these programs. Local childcare resource and referral agencies help families find childcare and determine whether they qualify for publicly funded childcare. Parents and guardians can find a local resource and referral agency here: https://rrnetwork.org/family-services/find-child-care.</p>		

Foster Parent/Resource Family	Probate Guardian	Juvenile Court Guardian
Special Needs Supplemental Payments		
<p>Special needs supplemental payments may be available. These payments are in addition to the basic rate, and can include:</p> <p>Level of Care based on the physical, behavioral, emotional, educational, health, and permanency care provided to a child. Payments range from \$1,129 to \$1,510 per month.</p> <p>Intensive Services Foster Care for children with intensive medical, behavioral, developmental, or emotional needs. The payment is \$2,946 per month.</p> <p>Specialized Care Increments for children with special medical, behavioral, developmental, or emotional needs. The amounts of these payments are set by the county. For more information, see www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/foster-care/specialized-care or speak to a social worker.</p> <p>Dual Agency Rate for children in foster care who also qualify for regional center services. These rates are \$1,323 per month for a child up to 3 years old and \$2,955 per month for a child over 3.</p> <p>Whole Family Foster Home and Infant Supplement payments are available to support youth living in foster care with their nondependent children. This rate is \$900 per month.</p> <p>An Expectant Parent Payment is available to support a youth in foster care for the last three months of pregnancy. This payment is \$2,700.</p> <p>A Clothing Allowance is available for foster children in some counties. The payment amount varies by county.</p> <p>Education Travel Reimbursement is available to caregivers who transport a child to the child's school of origin (the school the child was attending before being placed in the resource family home). This rate is set by the state based on two round trips per day between the foster/resource family home and the school.</p>	<p>No special needs supplemental payments are available to a child with living with a <i>relative</i> probate guardian.</p> <p>A child living with a nonrelative probate guardian and receiving state AFDC-FC payments may also, if eligible, receive a specialized care increment, a clothing allowance, or the teen parent part of a Whole Family Foster Home payment.</p> <p>See the Foster Parent/Resource Family column for details about these payments.</p>	<p>Special needs supplemental payments may be available. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of Care • Intensive Services Foster Care • Specialized Care Increments • Dual Agency Rate • Whole Family Foster Home and Infant Supplement • Clothing Allowance <p>See the Foster Parent/Resource Family column for details about these payments.</p>

3. How a Guardian Is Appointed and What Happens Afterward

STAGE	Probate Guardian	Juvenile Court Guardian
Petition	A person who wants to be appointed guardian of a child must file a petition with the probate court. The child's parent or the child, if at least 12 years old, can also file the petition. (See <i>Information on Probate Guardianship of the Person</i> (form GC-205-INFO).)	To start a juvenile court case, a county social worker or prosecuting attorney must file a petition in juvenile court.
Investigation	Before the court decides to appoint a guardian, an investigation is usually required. If the proposed guardian is a relative, a court investigator conducts the investigation. If the proposed guardian is not a relative, a county social worker conducts the investigation. The investigator prepares a report, makes a recommendation whether the petition should be granted, and files the report with the court, which makes it available to all persons served in the proceeding and their attorneys. The parent and the proposed guardian are responsible for the costs of the investigation unless payment would be a hardship.	The social worker or probation officer conducts an investigation to determine, among other things, whether to detain the child temporarily out of the parent's home and whether to recommend that the court remove the child from the parent's home. A person who wants to serve as guardian of a child in juvenile court should contact the child's social worker or probation officer early in the case to ask if the child can live with them.
Appointment of Counsel	The probate court has the authority to appoint an attorney to represent the child. The court may also appoint an attorney for the Indian custodian or biological parent of an Indian child but does not otherwise have the authority to appoint counsel for a parent.	In a dependency case, the juvenile court must appoint counsel for the child unless it finds that the child would not benefit from the appointment. And in almost every case, the court appoints counsel for a parent who cannot afford counsel. In a juvenile justice case, the court must appoint counsel for the child if the child appears without counsel. The court may also appoint separate counsel for a parent in specific circumstances.
Hearing	The court holds a hearing to decide whether to appoint a guardian. A parent or other interested person may go to the hearing and object, orally or in writing, to the appointment of a guardian for the child or to the appointment of the person proposed as guardian in the petition. The court will decide whether appointing a guardian is necessary and in the child's best interest.	The court holds a hearing to decide if the petition is true and whether to order the child placed out of the parent's home. If it decides the child cannot live safely at home, the court will not appoint a guardian right away unless the parents and child agree. Instead, it will order the child placed first with a foster parent/resource family and order the social worker or probation officer to provide reunification services (see below).
Reunification Services	The probate court cannot order family reunification services but can order supportive services for the guardian and child, if needed.	The juvenile court can order services to help the parents and child reunify (live together safely) <i>before</i> it chooses a permanent plan (e.g., guardianship) but not afterward.

STAGE	Probate Guardian	Juvenile Court Guardian
Decision to Appoint a Guardian	If the probate court finds that appointment of a guardian is necessary and in the child's best interest, the court may appoint a guardian.	The juvenile court may appoint a guardian at different times during the case, after making the required findings. In a dependency case, if the court finds that the petition is true, it can appoint a guardian for the child at the dispositional hearing, if the parents and the child agree and the court finds that appointing the guardian is in the child's best interest. In a juvenile justice case, the court can appoint a guardian for the child at any time after the dispositional hearing if the probation officer recommends it or the child's attorney requests it. In either a dependency or juvenile justice case, if the court has ordered out-of-home placement and denied or terminated reunification services, the court can appoint a guardian as the child's permanent plan at a separate hearing. The court decides whom to appoint as guardian. The person who has been caring for the child is almost always appointed. The procedures for appointing a guardian are generally the same in dependency and juvenile justice, but there are some differences. For more information, see <i>Information on Juvenile Court Guardianship</i> (form JV-350-INFO), and check with the social worker or probation officer.
Court Oversight	<p>After a guardian is appointed, there are no regular court hearings, although the probate court has the authority to regulate and control the guardian's actions. The court can order the guardian to allow visitation of the child with parents or other persons.</p> <p>The court may order the guardian to submit an annual status report to the court and, depending on the county, the court may hold a hearing. (See <i>Information on Probate Guardianship of the Person</i> (form GC-205-INFO).)</p> <p>On receipt of a request, the court may order the guardian to take action. The court may also order the guardian to appear and explain actions they have taken; the court may approve or rescind those actions.</p>	<p>The juvenile court keeps jurisdiction over the guardianship. When the court appoints a guardian, it must also issue parental visitation orders unless it finds that visitation would be detrimental to the child.</p> <p>In many cases after the guardianship is granted, especially if the guardian is related to the child, the court will terminate dependency or juvenile justice jurisdiction and will not hold any more regularly scheduled court hearings. In other cases, the court will grant the guardianship, keep dependency or juvenile justice jurisdiction, and continue to hold regular review hearings. After it terminates juvenile jurisdiction, the juvenile court keeps jurisdiction over the guardianship and can give orders to the guardian.</p> <p>Any request to change a court order, including a visitation order, or to end the guardianship must be filed in the juvenile court using <i>Request to Change Court Order</i> (form JV-180).</p>

STAGE	Probate Guardian	Juvenile Court Guardian
Role of Social Worker or Probation Officer	<p>A county social worker is responsible for screening any proposed guardian and for conducting the guardianship investigation if the proposed guardian is not related to the child.</p> <p>If the probate court thinks a child who is the subject of a guardianship petition may be abused or neglected, it can ask a social worker to investigate and file a dependency petition in the juvenile court before it decides whether to appoint a guardian. If the social worker files a dependency petition, then the juvenile court will have authority over the child's custody and placement. The probate court case will be put on hold until the juvenile court case is over.</p> <p>After a probate guardian is appointed, no social worker is involved unless the child or guardian receives public financial support or services.</p>	<p>If the dependency or juvenile justice case is kept open after guardianship is granted, the social worker or probation officer will provide support to the guardian and child and prepare reports for scheduled juvenile court hearings.</p> <p>If the juvenile dependency or juvenile justice case is closed after guardianship is granted, the juvenile court will continue to oversee the guardianship. Continued involvement by the social worker or probation officer will depend on any services and financial support the child continues to receive.</p>
Terminating Guardianship	<p>The guardianship automatically terminates (ends) when the child turns 18 or if, before turning 18, the child dies, is emancipated by court order, gets married, joins the armed services, or is adopted.</p> <p>If the guardian, a parent, the child, an Indian custodian, or the child's tribe shows that it is in the child's best interest, the court can end the guardianship before the child turns 18. The longer the child has lived with the guardian, the harder it is to show that termination is in the child's best interest.</p> <p>If the child consents, the court can extend a guardianship up to the child's 21st birthday to let the child complete a federal application for Special Immigrant Juvenile status.</p>	<p>The guardianship automatically terminates when the child turns 18 or if, before reaching age 18, the child dies, is emancipated by court order, gets married, joins the armed services, or is adopted.</p> <p>The court can terminate the guardianship if it finds that another permanent plan, such as adoption, is in the child's best interest. A social worker or probation officer, the guardian, a parent, the child, an Indian custodian, or the child's tribe can file a request with the juvenile court to terminate the guardianship.</p>
Terminating Parental Rights	<p>Appointment of a probate guardian suspends parental rights, but does not terminate them. However, under the Probate Code, if a child has been living with the guardian for at least two years, the guardian can file a petition to terminate parental rights so that the guardian can adopt the child. Parents are entitled to appointed counsel if this happens. In some situations, specified in the Family Code, the guardian can ask to adopt the child after as few as six months have passed or may need to wait up to three years.</p> <p>If the child is an Indian child, the Indian Child Welfare Act requires different procedures.</p>	<p>Appointment of a juvenile court guardian suspends parental rights, but does not terminate them. A social worker or probation officer, the guardian, or the child can file a request with the juvenile court to terminate parental rights and change the permanent plan to adoption. The court will hold a hearing to decide whether to grant the request. Each parent is entitled to notice of the hearing, to participate, and to have an attorney appointed for them.</p> <p>If the child is an Indian child, the Indian Child Welfare Act requires different procedures.</p>