

Appointing a Child Guardian

This playbook provides a step-by-step guide for appointing a guardian for minor children in your will. It includes considerations for choosing the right person and the legal processes involved.

Step 1: **Consideration**

Think critically about who would be the best guardian for your children. This should be someone who shares your values, has the capacity to take on the responsibility, and is willing to fulfill the role.

Step 2: **Discussion**

Have an open and honest discussion with the potential guardian to ensure they are willing and able to take on the role. Discuss your parenting philosophies, expectations, and any financial or legal implications.

Step 3: **Legal Advice**

Consult with an attorney who specializes in family law to understand the legal requirements for appointing a guardian in your state and to help draft the guardianship provisions in your will.

Step 4: **Draft Will**

Draft the will to include the guardianship clause, clearly stating your choice of guardian for your minor children and any specific instructions or wishes you have regarding their upbringing.

Step 5: **Guardian Backup**

Choose an alternate guardian in case your first choice is unable or unwilling to serve when the time comes. Include this in the will to ensure there is always a willing guardian available.

Step 6: **Review & Update**

Regularly review and update your will and guardianship choices as circumstances change. Keeping your will current ensures that it reflects your most recent wishes regarding your children's care.

Step 7: **Finalize Will**

Execute your will according to your state's laws, which typically requires signing in front of witnesses and notarization. Ensure that your will is legally binding.

General Notes

Emotional Considerations

Choosing a guardian is an emotional decision and may involve sensitive discussions with family and friends. Be prepared for complex emotions and aim for clear communication.

Financial Implications

Consider setting up a trust or financial mechanism to support the appointed guardian in raising your children, and ensure that the guardian is aware of these arrangements.