

Worksheet: Choosing A Guardian For Your Children

Getting Started

A Guardian of the Person is responsible for raising your child if something happens to you and ensures the general safety, protection, and physical and emotional growth of your child over the course of his or her life.

If the child's other natural parent is alive and capable, he or she will likely be named as Guardian. Still, it's a good idea to make arrangements for a scenario in which neither parent is able to serve.

This worksheet, which should be used to help you determine who you should name as Guardian of your children and your estate, includes:

- Prospective Guardians
- 10 Factors To Consider For Your Children
- Final Decisions
- Put It In Your Will

Remember

[Create an Everplan](#) to easily and securely update and share this vital info with the people you love and trust.

PROSPECTIVE GUARDIANS OF THE PERSON

Since this is a big decision, you want to make sure every base is covered. To help you grasp the breadth and duties of a Guardian, please choose three people you're considering naming Guardian.

Name: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Now that you've narrowed it down to three people it's time to see whose up for the task!

FACTORS TO CONSIDER WHEN NAMING GUARDIAN OF THE PERSON

Write the name or initials of the person you think would best carry out the following tasks and duties.

Values: This person shares my beliefs, principles, and philosophy of life, and will raise my child accordingly: _____

Personality & Lifestyle: This person's personality and lifestyle are most compatible with my child's personality and interests: _____

Religion: This person shares my religious views and will be able to raise my child according to those views: _____

Parenting Style: This person has/will most likely have a similar parenting style to my own, which will allow my child to assimilate and thrive: _____

Medical Care: This person will make sure my child receives basic medical, dental, and, if necessary, mental health treatments: _____

Education: This person shares my views on education and will be active in making sure my child sets and achieves academic goals: _____

Ability & Resources: This person will be able to devote the time, energy, health, emotional wherewithal, and financial resources to raise my child: _____

Existing Relationship: This person already knows my child and they have a friendly, healthy relationship: _____

Understanding: I've spoken with this person about issues my child has had in the past and they were compassionate and understanding: _____

Location: With proximity in mind, does it matter if the Guardian lives close or if your child would have to relocate to another community and attend a new school and make new friends?

DECISION TIME: NAME YOUR GUARDIAN

Whose name did you write the most? That's the person you should name as your child's Guardian.

Primary Guardian/Contact Info: _____

You also need to name a **Successor Guardian** in case something happens to your Primary Guardian. It could be the person whose name you wrote the second-most, or the person you feel can do just as good a job as your primary pick.

Successor Guardian/Contact Info: _____

MAKE IT OFFICIAL: PUT IT IN YOUR WILL

You've spent all this time identifying a Guardian, now it's time to make sure your efforts don't go to waste. Choose among the options below:

- I need to create a Will so my kids are properly cared for if something happens to me
- I need to update my Will to reflect changes I think are best for my children
- My Will is in tiptop shape and someone I trust knows exactly where it is

Additional Info About Guardianship

Unlike material possessions, a child isn't property and can't simply be bequeathed to another person, which is why the courts get involved. A judge -- usually from Family Court, though possibly from Probate/Surrogate Court, Juvenile Court, or District Court -- will have the ultimate say in deciding your child's Guardian.

Don't let this discourage you at all! Your opinion on who should get custody matters very much to the court, and the person named in your Will should take priority in the judge's mind.

CREATE YOUR EVERPLAN NOW: www.everplans.com

Create, store, and share all of your Guardian choices and decisions in this document (and so much more) in a personalized Everplan so it's accessible to those who will need it.