

Power of Attorney Designation Instructions

A guardianship election form is a notarized statement indicating who should have the authority to act as the temporary guardian of your child if some circumstance, such as sudden hospitalization or detainment, kept you from caring for your child. This document tells authorities who you wish to have care for your child, and make important decisions for your child, under such circumstances. At your election, such decisions may include:

- Decisions about medical and dental care;
- Decisions about education and any special needs;
- Decisions about travel.

Electing the person that you wish to be the temporary guardian of your child, in the case that you are unable to care for your child, does not compromise your parental rights. Neither parent will lose any parental rights as a result of designating a temporary guardian. A temporary guardian has the authority to act on your behalf *only* during such times as you are unable to act. For example, if you are hospitalized, then, as soon as you are released from the hospital and able to care for your child, the temporary guardian's authority would cease. In addition, at any time, you may revoke the guardianship designation and elect someone else that you wish to be the temporary guardian of your child by filling out a new guardian election form and having it notarized.

You also may state in the document that, upon your death or permanent incapacity, you would like the elected person to become the permanent guardian of your child. This is completely optional and is a decision that you should carefully consider. Please note that, although a court will consider your wishes regarding a permanent guardian as stated in the document, the court is not required to honor them.

Attorneys will hold a clinic at [*place*] on [*date*] to prepare guardianship paperwork for free from [*time*].

Should you wish to have the attorneys prepare and notarize the paperwork for you to elect a guardian for your child please bring the following things to the clinic:

- The full name of your child as it appears on his or her birth certificate;
- An identification card with your photo on it (a passport from a foreign country is fine);
- If possible, both parents should attend and both should bring identification cards;
- If possible, the elected guardian should attend and also bring an identification card.

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