



What is legal guardianship?

There are two types of legal guardianships in California: guardianship of the person and/or guardianships of the estate. Guardianship of the person requires the adult to be responsible for the child's well-being. Guardianship of a minor's estate can be used if the minor has substantial assets that require care and control.

What are the differences between guardianship, conservatorship and adoption?

Guardianships are temporary; any guardianship rights end when the minor becomes an adult. Generally, conservatorships are for adults who need "significant care." Adoption creates a permanent parent-child relationship.

Reference: Brown, D., & Doskow, E. (2011). *The Guardianship Book for California: How to Become a Child's Legal Guardian*. (8 ed., pp. 3-5). Berkeley, CA: Nolo Press.

We recommend that you begin your research with the resources followed by an asterisk.

Online Resources:

The Superior Court of California Self-Help*

<http://www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp-guardianship.htm>

Website provides an overview of the guardianship process including links to forms.

The Superior Court of California Judicial Council Form GC-205-INFO*

<https://courts.ca.gov/sites/default/files/courts/default/2024-11/gc205info.pdf>

Form provides information on probate guardianship of the person.

The Superior Court of California Judicial Council Form GC-206-INFO*

<https://courts.ca.gov/sites/default/files/courts/default/2024-11/gc206info.pdf>

Form provides information on probate guardianship of the estate

The Superior Court of California, County of Riverside Self-Help*

<https://www.riverside.courts.ca.gov/SelfHelp/Guardianship/guardianship.php>

Website provides guardianship packets, Judicial Council and local forms, videos, brochures, and charts.

The US Department of Health and Human Services

<https://acf.gov/cb/grant-funding/title-iv-e-guardianship-assistance>

Website provides information on the Title IV-E Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP) and title IV-E agencies that aid in the care of relative children.

Bridging Refugee Youth & Children's Services

<https://brycs.org/toolkit/guardianship-toolkit/>

Website provides information specifically for refugee families seeking guardianship.



Nolo Press Legal Encyclopedia – Guardianship of Children

<https://www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/guardianship>

Website explains guardianship, how to set a guardianship, and common scenarios that arise in the guardianship of children.

Library Resources:

Call numbers are for use in RCLL. Initials after title specify which library the item can be located (R) Riverside, (I) Indio, (T) Temecula, (DL) Digital Library. ISBN numbers are for use outside of the library, such as for personal purchase.

Title: *California Jurisprudence* 3d, v.35A (R) (I) (T)

Publisher: Thomson West

CallNo: KFC 65 .C343 v.35A

ISBN: N/A

Description: California Jurisprudence, also known as Cal Jur, is a legal encyclopedia. Volume 35A covers guardianship and conservatorship, providing references to code sections and cases.

[Available through our Westlaw database](#)

Title: *Witkins Summary of California Law*, v.14 (R) (I) (T)

Publisher: Thomson West

CallNo: KFC 80 .W5 10th v.14

ISBN: N/A

Description: Witkins Summary of California Law provides in depth articles covering substantive California law. The chapter covering wills and probate, located in Volume 14, has a section discussing guardianships of minors.

[Available through our Westlaw database](#)

Title: *California Guardianship Practice* (R) (I)

Publisher: Continuing Education of the Bar (CEB)

CallNo: KFC 134 .C3 CEB

Description: This book covers all major aspects of a guardianship proceeding. It includes templates for forms.

[Available through our CEB Onlaw Database](#)

Title: *California Probate Procedure* (I) (DL)

Publisher: Michie/Lexis

CallNo: KFC 205 .M36

Description: This practice guide covers common areas of probate law in California. Chapter 21 dives into guardianship and conservatorship.

*[Available as an eBook on our Lexis Digital Library](#) and through our [LexisNexis database](#).



Title: *California Forms of Pleading and Practice* (R) (I) (T) (DL)

Publisher: Matthew Bender/Lexis

CallNo: KFC 1010 .A65C3 v.24

Description: Chapter 280 of this resource covers the law regarding guardianships and provides templates for forms.

*[Available as an eBook on our Lexis Digital Library](#) and through our [LexisNexis database](#).

Pertinent California Codes:

The California Legislative Information website provides free online access to all state statutes.

[CA Probate Code Sec.1500-1611](#)

[CA Probate Code Sec.2100](#)

Please Note: The information presented in this research guide is intended to provide a foundation for legal research. For information pertaining to your case please consult with an attorney, court facilitator, or specialist.