

GUARDIANSHIPS FOR MINORS FILING INFORMATION

1. What is a guardian of a minor?

With some exceptions, a guardian of a minor takes on the role of a parent, providing for the care and custody of the minor and making decisions concerning where the minor lives, where he or she goes to school, and what medical procedures are in the minor's best interest.

2. Filing the petition and the Social History form

A Petition for Appointment of Guardian of Minor is attached. In order to ask the court for a guardian **you must complete this petition and file it with the court.** A Social History for Minor Guardianships form is also attached; this must be completed by the proposed guardian(s) and filed with the petition. **The Social History form will be kept confidential.**

A special type of minor guardianship (called a "limited guardianship") can be created if the custodial parents of the minor themselves petition, voluntarily suspend their parental rights, and submit a placement plan which would govern the guardianship. If you are interested in this type of guardianship, please refer to the "Limited Guardianships for Minors" packet.

3. Filing Fee

In order to file a petition for guardianship you must pay a **\$150 filing fee** (cash, check, or money order). Make any check or money order out to "Ingham County Probate Court."

4. Investigation Fee and Certified Copy Fee

Once you file your petition, an **investigator** will be appointed to visit the proposed ward, conduct a home visit with the proposed guardian, draft a report and make recommendations to the judge. ***If the court approves your petition, then, pursuant to statutory authorization (MCL 600.875), you will be assessed a \$50 fee for reimbursement of the costs of investigation.*** This fee will also be assessed if you request and are granted a temporary emergency guardian.

If you wish to receive a certified copy of the Letters of Guardianship once a guardian is appointed, there is a statutorily-fixed **\$11 fee.**

5. After you file your petition

If and when you decide to petition for guardianship, a **hearing date** will be set and there will be some other things you will need to do, including the following:

- **Serve notice of the hearing on your petition to all interested persons** (including publishing notice on any interested person whose whereabouts are unknown)

- **File a Proof of Service** indicating that you have timely informed all relevant people.

More details on this are available under "Guardianships for Minors: Service Information."