

Notice of the hearing on a petition for appointment of a probate guardian must include a copy of this form.

A California court can order care, custody, and control of a child transferred from a parent to another caregiver in a variety of cases. This form compares juvenile court and probate guardianship cases. In juvenile court, a foster parent, sometimes called a resource family, is a temporary caregiver. A guardian is a “permanent” caregiver. A probate court can also appoint a guardian, using different procedures and standards. The three charts in this form compare the rights and duties, available services and supports, and court processes in juvenile court and probate guardianship cases.

Charts in this form

- 1. The Rights and Duties of Different Types of Caregivers, at pages 2–4**
Compares foster parents/resource families with probate guardians and juvenile court guardians
- 2. The Services and Financial Support Available to Different Types of Caregivers, at pages 5–8**
Compares foster parents/resource families, probate guardians, and juvenile court guardians
- 3. How a Guardian Is Appointed and What Happens Afterward, at pages 9–11**
Compares probate guardians with juvenile court guardians

For more information on probate guardianship of the person, see *Information on Probate Guardianship of the Person* (form GC-205-INFO). For information on probate guardianship of the estate, see *Information on Probate Guardianship of the Estate* (form GC-206-INFO). For more information on juvenile court guardianship, see *Information on Juvenile Court Guardianship* (form JV-350-INFO).

CAUTION: This form does not replace legal advice from a lawyer. Parents, potential caregivers, and potential guardians should consult a lawyer for answers to questions or concerns about their specific situation. Click this link, www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp-findlawyer.htm, for help finding a lawyer.

Starting a case in probate court or juvenile court

A probate guardianship case begins when a private person files a petition to appoint a guardian. A juvenile dependency case begins only if the child welfare agency files a petition. However, a private person can ask the agency to file a petition. If the agency does not, that person can ask the juvenile court to order the agency to file a petition. Even if the agency files a petition, the juvenile court can deny it if the child doesn’t meet the legal standard. If the probate court thinks a juvenile dependency case might be appropriate after a guardianship case begins but before a guardian is appointed, the court can ask the agency to file a dependency petition and, if the agency does not, can ask the juvenile court to order the agency to file a petition.

Families can also arrange for care and a place to live for a child without going to court. These arrangements are usually temporary and often involve documents such as a Caregiver’s Authorization Affidavit (see www.courts.ca.gov/documents/caregiver.pdf) or a Voluntary Placement Agreement with a child welfare agency (see www.cdss.ca.gov/cdssweb/entres/forms/english/soc155.pdf). *Information on the Probate Guardianship of the Person* (form GC-205-INFO) gives information about these arrangements.

Foster parents/resource families

If a juvenile court finds that a child cannot continue living safely at home, the court will order the child placed out of the home in the care and custody of the county child welfare agency (sometimes called *child protective services* or CPS). The agency can then place the child in the home of an approved foster parent. If a foster parent has been approved through the resource family approval (RFA) process, the foster parent is sometimes called a *resource family*, so this form uses the term “foster parent/resource family.” Approval as a foster parent/resource family is difficult and takes time. Some families will not be approved because they do not meet the strict standards.

Guardians

A guardian is an adult appointed by either the probate court or the juvenile court to take long-term care, custody, and control of a child when the child’s parents are unavailable or unable to care for the child. A relative or nonrelative can be appointed as guardian if the court finds the appointment is in the child’s best interest. In general, probate guardians have the same rights and duties as juvenile court guardians. However, probate guardians have access to different, and often fewer, financial supports, services, and resources.



1. The Rights and Duties of Different Types of Caregivers

Foster Parents/Resource Families	Guardians (Probate and Juvenile Court)
Caregiver's Fundamental Responsibilities and General Duties	
A foster parent/resource family works with child welfare agency social workers to provide care, supervision, and housing for the child. A foster parent/resource family receives foster care funds for the child's needs, such as food and clothing, and works with the social worker to make sure the child receives available resources and services if the child has special needs.	A guardian, whether appointed by a probate court or juvenile court, has the same general rights and duties toward the child as a parent. In other words, a guardian has care, custody, and control of the child. However, the court that appoints the guardian can order the guardian to do or not to do certain things. The guardian is responsible for providing for food, clothing, shelter, education, and all the medical and dental needs of the child. The guardian must provide for the safety, protection, and physical and emotional growth of the child. Like a parent, a guardian should maintain close contact with the child's school and doctor. If the child has special needs, the guardian must strive to meet those needs and secure appropriate services. Some children may have physical or learning disabilities. Other children come from abusive homes or have been victims of abuse. Counseling and other services may be necessary to help these children.
Custody and Visitation	
Physical custody of the child—that is, the right to decide where the child lives—is with the child welfare agency unless the court orders a specific placement. Parents retain legal custody subject to limitations set by the court. A foster parent/resource family must make sure the child takes part in visits and phone calls with parents and others authorized by the social worker or ordered by the court. A foster parent/resource family cannot, on their own, ask the court to terminate parental rights and adopt the child. They can, however, tell the social worker they would like to adopt the child.	The guardian has legal and physical custody of the child. Parents can no longer make decisions for the child while there is a guardianship. The rights of the parents are completely suspended—but not terminated—as long as the guardianship remains in effect. If a guardian is appointed, a parent or other person can ask the court to order the guardian to let them visit or spend time with the child. (In juvenile court, the court must allow the parent to visit the child unless it would be <i>detrimental</i> to the child.) If the court does not make an order, the guardian can decide who visits the child. After the child has been in the guardian's custody for a minimum time, varying from six months to three years depending on the circumstances, the guardian may petition to terminate parental rights and adopt the child.
Residence	
The social worker and the court decide who the child will live with.	A guardian decides where the child lives. The child normally will live with the guardian, but the guardian can make other arrangements if they are in the best interest of the child. A guardian must give proper notice to the court and others of any address change of either the child or the guardian. A guardian must get court permission before changing the child's residence to a place outside California.

Foster Parents/Resource Families	Guardians (Probate and Juvenile Court)
Health Care	
The social worker arranges care and treatment for the child's medical, dental, and mental health needs, but the foster parent/resource family might be responsible for scheduling and transporting the child to these appointments. Parents keep their rights to make health-care decisions for the child except in an emergency or if the court orders otherwise.	The guardian must make sure that the child's health-care needs are met. In most cases, the guardian has the authority to consent to the child's medical treatment. However, if the child is 14 years of age or older, surgery may not be performed on the child unless (1) both the child and the guardian consent, (2) a court order specifically authorizes the surgery, or (3) an emergency exists. A guardian may not place a child in a mental health treatment facility against the child's wishes. A separate legal process is required for such a placement. However, the guardian must obtain any counseling or other necessary mental health services needed by the child. The law also allows children to consent to certain types of treatment—including outpatient mental health treatment, medical care related to pregnancy or sexually transmitted diseases, and drug or alcohol treatment—without the consent of a parent or guardian.
Education	
When a child is in foster care, parents retain the rights to make educational and developmental-services decisions for the child unless the court limits these rights and assigns them to another person. If the court limits parental rights to make educational and developmental-services decisions, it may assign those rights to a foster parent/resource family. Otherwise, a foster parent/resource family cannot make those decisions or attend Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings for the child unless invited by the person holding educational rights. A foster parent/resource family is responsible for making sure that the child attends school. If the child is receiving special education services, the foster parent/resource family works with the school district and service providers to ensure that the child receives all the services and supports in the child's IEP. (See page 8 for information about financial support for children with special needs.)	A guardian is responsible for the child's education and holds the child's educational and developmental-services decisionmaking rights, unless the court appoints someone else to hold them. If a child needs special education and related services, the guardian must advocate for the child with the school district and make the appropriate arrangements. (See page 8 for information about financial support for children with special needs.)

Foster Parents/Resource Families	Guardians (Probate and Juvenile Court)
Consent to Changes to the Child's Status	
A foster parent/resource family cannot consent to the child's marriage, military enlistment, or driver's license application, but the juvenile court can consent.	<p>A guardian <i>and the court</i> must give permission for a minor child to get married.</p> <p>A guardian may consent to a minor child's enlistment in the armed services or application for a driver's license.</p> <p>A guardian may apply for a passport for a minor child.</p>
Financial Obligations	
A foster parent/resource family receives foster care funds to pay for the child's needs.	<p>The guardian is responsible for the day-to-day financial support of the child, even though the parents are still obligated to support the child. The guardian may take legal action or contact the local child support agency to obtain child support from a parent.</p> <p>The child may also be eligible for Aid to Families with Dependent Children—Foster Care (AFDC-FC), Social Security benefits, Veterans Administration benefits, Indian child welfare benefits, and support from other public or private sources. (See Chart 2.)</p>
Legal Liability	
Except in limited circumstances, a foster parent/resource family is immune from liability in a civil action to recover damages for injury, death, or loss to person or property caused by an act or omission of a child or nonminor dependent while the child or nonminor dependent is placed in the home of the foster parent/resource family. (See Welfare and Institutions Code section 362.06(b)(2).)	A guardian, like a parent, is liable for the harm and damage caused by the willful misconduct of a child. (See Civil Code, § 1714.1(a).) There is usually a limit on how much a guardian may be required to pay. There are special rules concerning harm caused by the use of a firearm.
If you are concerned about your liability for a child's conduct, you should contact an attorney.	
Other Rights or Duties	
Foster parents/resource families are entitled to notice of statutory review hearings and permanency hearings. They may attend the hearings and give information about the child to the court. Caregivers who wish to submit information in writing may use <i>Caregiver Information Form</i> (form JV-290).	The court may require the guardian to perform other duties, such as completing a parenting class or attend counseling sessions with the child. The guardian must follow all court orders and cooperate with court investigators.
Foster parents/resource families must be included in a child's Child and Family Team (CFT) and must be notified of every CFT meeting. They may be invited to participate in or support a child's services, such as counseling or other types of treatment.	<p>Court visitors and status reports: Some counties have programs in which "court visitors" track and review guardianships. If your county has such a program, you will be expected to cooperate with all the court visitor's requests. In addition, a guardian may have to fill out and file status reports.</p>

2. The Services and Financial Support Available to Different Types of Caregivers

The payment amounts discussed below are updated annually based on the cost of living. Payments are made retroactively. For example, a child placed with a caregiver in January would receive funds for the month of January in February. The payment amounts given below are in effect from July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023. For updated amounts, see www.cdss.ca.gov/inforeresources/letters-regulations/letters-and-notices/all-county-letters.

Foster Parent/Resource Family	Probate Guardian	Juvenile Court Guardian
Cash Payments per Child—Relatives		
Before a relative is approved as a foster parent/resource family, Emergency Caregiver (EC) funding is available at the foster care basic rate starting from the date the child is placed with the relative. EC funding is limited to the foster care basic rate, \$1,129 per month.	Child-only California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids Program (CalWORKs) payments are available for a child living with a relative guardian. The income of the family is considered in calculating the amount of cash aid the family receives.	Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment (Kin-GAP) payments are available to children who have lived with an approved relative guardian for at least six months. Kin-GAP families sign a written agreement with the county. The Kin-GAP payments begin once the agreement is signed and the juvenile court terminates the dependency case.
After approval, the foster parent/resource family will receive foster care payments through federal Aid for Families with Dependent Children—Foster Care (AFDC-FC) . These payments are set at the foster care basic rate, \$1,129 per month.	Payments are approximately one-half of the foster care basic rate paid to nonrelatives. A relative caregiver can receive this assistance before appointment as guardian if the child lives with the relative. Payments can drop below one-half of the foster care basic rate if there are multiple children in the home.	Payments cannot exceed the amount the child was receiving in foster care, but they can include the foster care basic rate and any special needs supplements the child was receiving. The income of the child's parents, Kin-GAP guardian, or any other relative living in the household is not used to determine the child's Kin-GAP eligibility.
There are different eligibility requirements for federal and state AFDC-FC. The child welfare agency will determine eligibility. For a child in relative foster care who is not eligible for federal AFDC-FC or EC, Approved Relative Caregiver (ARC) payments are available. These payments are set at the foster care basic rate, \$1,129 per month.	CalWORKs Maximum Aid Payment (MAP) levels depend on variables such as geographic region and exempt/nonexempt status and are hard to calculate. From October 1, 2022, to September 30, 2024, MAP amounts for one child in California are expected to range from \$669 to \$779 per month. A social worker who specializes in benefits would be the best person to ask about MAP levels for cash aid.	Kin-GAP payments generally end when a child turns 18 but can continue until age 19 if the child is completing high school or until age 21 if the Kin-GAP payments started after the child turned 16 or if the child has an ongoing disability.
California foster youth who are placed with a relative out of state are eligible for funds at the foster care rate in the state where they are placed.	Payments end when the child turns 18 years old, but it is possible to extend payments to age 19 if the child is completing high school.	If the court keeps the juvenile case open after appointing a relative guardian, the guardian can receive Approved Relative Caregiver (ARC) or foster care payments instead of Kin-GAP.
		In very rare situations, a relative guardian may not qualify for Kin-GAP, foster care, or ARC payments, but may still qualify for California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids Program (CalWORKs) payments.

Foster Parent/Resource Family	Probate Guardian	Juvenile Court Guardian
Cash Payments per Child—Nonrelatives		
<p>Before approval as a resource family, a nonrelative foster parent/resource family may receive Emergency Caregiver (EC) funding at the foster care basic rate, \$1,129 per month, starting from the date the child is placed with the nonrelative.</p> <p>After approval, the foster parent/resource family will receive foster care payments. Nonrelative resource families receive Aid to Families with Dependent Children—Foster Care (AFDC-FC) funds. There are federal and state AFDC-FC funding programs, and they have different eligibility requirements. The foster care basic rate is \$1,129 per month.</p>	<p>No cash payments are available until a guardian is appointed and the child begins living with the guardian.</p> <p>An eligible child living with a <i>nonrelative</i> probate guardian may receive state Aid to Families with Dependent Children—Foster Care (AFDC-FC) payments equivalent to the foster care basic rate, \$1,129 per month, after the court establishes a temporary guardianship.</p> <p>Payments usually end when the child turns 18 years old but may continue to age 19 if the child is completing high school or to age 21 if the child has a disability.</p>	<p>State Aid to Families with Dependent Children—Foster Care (AFDC-FC) is available to children who live with a nonrelative guardian. This rate may change depending on where you live, so before you move, ask if there will be a rate change. The foster care basic rate is \$1,129 per month.</p> <p>A youth who continues living with a former nonrelative guardian after reaching age 18 can continue to receive AFDC-FC payments until they turn 21 if they meet certain participation criteria related to work, school, or activities designed to remove barriers to employment.</p>
Medical Insurance		
<p>Children who qualify for the cash payments described above are also eligible for full-scope Medi-Cal services. Youth are eligible for Former Foster Youth Medi-Cal up to age 26.</p>	<p>A child who qualifies for CalWORKs (relative guardian) or AFDC-FC (nonrelative guardian) payments is eligible for Medi-Cal. After turning 18, a youth is <i>not</i> eligible for Former Foster Youth Medi-Cal but may qualify for Medi-Cal based on income.</p>	<p>Children who qualify for Kin-GAP, ARC, or CalWORKs payments also receive full-scope Medi-Cal health care services.</p>
Extended Foster Care and Other Transition Age Supports		
<p>Extended Foster Care benefits are available for youth living in foster care when they turn 18. These <i>nonminor dependents</i> can receive ongoing case management and EFC payments until they turn 21; they may also qualify for transitional housing and independent living placements.</p>	<p>A youth who turns 18 in a probate guardianship is <i>not</i> eligible for Extended Foster Care, Independent Living Program services, or Chafee Education and Training Vouchers.</p>	<p>Extended Foster Care benefits are <i>not</i> available for a youth who is under juvenile court guardianship when the youth turns 18 years old. But if the former guardian dies or no longer provides ongoing support to the youth, the youth can ask the juvenile court to open the dependency case again. If the court does, the youth may qualify for EFC payments if they complete the requirements.</p>

Foster Parent/Resource Family	Probate Guardian	Juvenile Court Guardian
Extended Foster Care and Other Transition Age Supports		
<p>Payment amounts vary by the type of living arrangement. They range from the foster care basic rate of \$1,129 per month to \$5,720 per month for a parenting youth living in transitional housing in a high-cost county.</p> <p>Independent Living Program funding is available for current and former foster youth up to age 21, if they were in foster care on or after they reached age 16. This funding can help youth learn household and money management and help them with education, housing, and employment.</p> <p>Chafee Education and Training Vouchers for postsecondary education are available for youth who were in foster care on or after age 16. Vouchers are worth up to \$5,000 per year.</p>	<p>However, a youth living with a former guardian and receiving CalWORKs (relative) or AFDC-FC (nonrelative) payments may continue receiving payments until age 19 if the youth is completing high school or another eligible education program or until age 21 if the youth has a disability.</p>	<p>Independent Living Program funding is available for current and former foster youth up to age 21, if they were in foster care on or after age 16, they entered into a Kin-GAP guardianship after age 16, or they entered into a nonrelated legal guardianship through juvenile court after age 8. This funding can help youth learn to manage their household and money and help them with education, housing, and employment.</p> <p>Chafee Education and Training Vouchers may be available. See the Foster Parent/Resource Family column for details.</p>
Childcare Assistance		
<p>The Emergency Child Care Bridge program provides childcare vouchers and navigation support to caregivers of children in foster care and to foster youth who have children of their own. Eligibility depends on available funding and county policy.</p>	<p>Income-based childcare assistance may be available to children in probate guardianships.</p>	<p>Emergency Child Care Bridge program benefits are not available after a guardianship is established, but income-based childcare assistance may be available.</p>
<p>California offers a variety of publicly funded childcare programs to eligible families. <i>Information on Probate Guardianship of the Person</i> (form GC-205-INFO) and <i>Information on Juvenile Court Guardianship</i> (form JV-350-INFO) give more information on these programs. Local childcare resource and referral agencies help families find childcare and determine whether they qualify for publicly funded childcare. Parents and guardians can find a local resource and referral agency here: https://rrnetwork.org/family-services/find-child-care.</p>		

Foster Parent/Resource Family	Probate Guardian	Juvenile Court Guardian
Special Needs Supplemental Payments		
<p>Special needs supplemental payments may be available. These payments are in addition to the basic rate, and can include:</p> <p>Level of Care based on the physical, behavioral, emotional, educational, health, and permanency care provided to a child. Payments range from \$1,129 to \$1,510 per month.</p> <p>Intensive Services Foster Care for children with intensive medical, behavioral, developmental, or emotional needs. The payment is \$2,946 per month.</p> <p>Specialized Care Increments for children with special medical, behavioral, developmental, or emotional needs. The amounts of these payments are set by the county. For more information, see www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/foster-care/specialized-care or speak to a social worker.</p> <p>Dual Agency Rate for children in foster care who also qualify for regional center services. These rates are \$1,323 per month for a child up to 3 years old and \$2,955 per month for a child over 3.</p> <p>Whole Family Foster Home and Infant Supplement payments are available to support youth living in foster care with their nondependent children. This rate is \$900 per month.</p> <p>An Expectant Parent Payment is available to support a youth in foster care for the last three months of pregnancy. This payment is \$2,700.</p> <p>A Clothing Allowance is available for foster children in some counties. The payment amount varies by county.</p> <p>Education Travel Reimbursement is available to caregivers who transport a child to the child's school of origin (the school the child was attending before being placed in the resource family home). This rate is set by the state based on two round trips per day between the foster/resource family home and the school.</p>	<p>No special needs supplemental payments are available to a child with living with a <i>relative</i> probate guardian.</p> <p>A child living with a nonrelative probate guardian and receiving state AFDC-FC payments may also, if eligible, receive a specialized care increment, a clothing allowance, or the teen parent part of a Whole Family Foster Home payment.</p> <p>See the Foster Parent/Resource Family column for details about these payments.</p>	<p>Special needs supplemental payments may be available. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of Care • Intensive Services • Foster Care • Specialized Care Increments • Dual Agency Rate • Whole Family Foster Home and Infant Supplement • Clothing Allowance <p>See the Foster Parent/Resource Family column for details about these payments.</p>

3. How a Guardian Is Appointed and What Happens Afterward

Stage	Probate Guardian	Juvenile Court Guardian
Petition	A person who wants to be appointed guardian of a child must file a petition with the probate court. The child's parent or the child, if at least 12 years old, can also file the petition. (See <i>Information on Probate Guardianship of the Person</i> (form GC-205-INFO).)	To start a juvenile court case, a county social worker or prosecuting attorney must file a petition in juvenile court.
Investigation	Before the court decides to appoint a guardian, an investigation is usually required. If the proposed guardian is a relative, a court investigator conducts the investigation. If the proposed guardian is not a relative, a county social worker conducts the investigation. The investigator prepares a report, makes a recommendation whether the petition should be granted, and files the report with the court, which makes it available to all persons served in the proceeding and their attorneys. The parent and the proposed guardian are responsible for the costs of the investigation unless payment would be a hardship.	The social worker or probation officer conducts an investigation to determine, among other things, whether to detain the child temporarily out of the parent's home and whether to recommend that the court remove the child from the parent's home. A person who wants to serve as guardian of a child in juvenile court should contact the child's social worker or probation officer early in the case to ask if the child can live with them.
Appointment of Counsel	The probate court has the authority to appoint an attorney to represent the child. The court may also appoint an attorney for the Indian custodian or biological parent of an Indian child but does not otherwise have the authority to appoint counsel for a parent.	In a dependency case, the juvenile court must appoint counsel for the child unless it finds that the child would not benefit from the appointment. And in almost every case, the court appoints counsel for a parent who cannot afford counsel. In a juvenile justice case, the court must appoint counsel for the child if the child appears without counsel. The court may also appoint separate counsel for a parent in specific circumstances.
Hearing	The court holds a hearing to decide whether to appoint a guardian. A parent or other interested person may go to the hearing and object, orally or in writing, to the appointment of a guardian for the child or to the appointment of the person proposed as guardian in the petition. The court will decide whether appointing a guardian is necessary and in the child's best interest.	The court holds a hearing to decide if the petition is true and whether to order the child placed out of the parent's home. If it decides the child cannot live safely at home, the court will not appoint a guardian right away unless the parents and child agree. Instead, it will order the child placed first with a foster parent/resource family and order the social worker or probation officer to provide reunification services (see below).
Reunification Services	The probate court cannot order family reunification services but can order supportive services for the guardian and child, if needed.	The juvenile court can order services to help the parents and child reunify (live together safely) before it chooses a permanent plan (e.g., guardianship) but not afterward.

Stage	Probate Guardian	Juvenile Court Guardian
Decision to Appoint a Guardian	<p>If the probate court finds that appointment of a guardian is necessary and in the child's best interest, the court may appoint a guardian.</p>	<p>The juvenile court may appoint a guardian at different times during the case, after making the required findings. In a dependency case, if the court finds that the petition is true, it can appoint a guardian for the child at the dispositional hearing, if the parents and the child agree and the court finds that appointing the guardian is in the child's best interest. In a juvenile justice case, the court can appoint a guardian for the child at any time after the dispositional hearing if the probation officer recommends it or the child's attorney requests it. In either a dependency or juvenile justice case, if the court has ordered out-of-home placement and denied or terminated reunification services, the court can appoint a guardian as the child's permanent plan at a separate hearing. The court decides whom to appoint as guardian. The person who has been caring for the child is almost always appointed.</p> <p>The procedures for appointing a guardian are generally the same in dependency and juvenile justice, but there are some differences. For more information, see <i>Information on Juvenile Court Guardianship</i> (form JV-350-INFO), and check with the social worker or probation officer.</p>
Court Oversight	<p>After a guardian is appointed, there are no regular court hearings, although the probate court has the authority to regulate and control the guardian's actions. The court can order the guardian to allow visitation of the child with parents or other persons.</p> <p>The court may order the guardian to submit an annual status report to the court and, depending on the county, the court may hold a hearing. (See <i>Information on Probate Guardianship of the Person</i> (form GC-205-INFO).)</p> <p>On receipt of a request, the court may order the guardian to take action. The court may also order the guardian to appear and explain actions they have taken; the court may approve or rescind those actions.</p>	<p>The juvenile court keeps jurisdiction over the guardianship. When the court appoints a guardian, it must also issue parental visitation orders unless it finds that visitation would be detrimental to the child.</p> <p>In many cases after the guardianship is granted, especially if the guardian is related to the child, the court will terminate dependency or juvenile justice jurisdiction and will not hold any more regularly scheduled court hearings. In other cases, the court will grant the guardianship, keep dependency or juvenile justice jurisdiction, and continue to hold regular review hearings. After it terminates juvenile jurisdiction, the juvenile court keeps jurisdiction over the guardianship and can give orders to the guardian.</p> <p>Any request to change a court order, including a visitation order, or to end the guardianship must be filed in the juvenile court using <i>Request to Change Court Order</i> (form JV-180).</p>

Stage	Probate Guardian	Juvenile Court Guardian
Role of Social Worker or Probation Officer	<p>A county social worker is responsible for screening any proposed guardian and for conducting the guardianship investigation if the proposed guardian is not related to the child.</p> <p>If the probate court thinks a child who is the subject of a guardianship petition may be abused or neglected, it can ask a social worker to investigate and file a dependency petition in the juvenile court before it decides whether to appoint a guardian. If the social worker files a dependency petition, then the juvenile court will have authority over the child's custody and placement. The probate court case will be put on hold until the juvenile court case is over.</p> <p>After a probate guardian is appointed, no social worker is involved unless the child or guardian receives public financial support or services.</p>	<p>If the dependency or juvenile justice case is kept open after guardianship is granted, the social worker or probation officer will provide support to the guardian and child and prepare reports for scheduled juvenile court hearings.</p> <p>If the juvenile dependency or juvenile justice case is closed after guardianship is granted, the juvenile court will continue to oversee the guardianship. Continued involvement by the social worker or probation officer will depend on any services and financial support the child continues to receive.</p>
Terminating Guardianship	<p>The guardianship automatically terminates (ends) when the child turns 18 or if, before turning 18, the child dies, is emancipated by court order, gets married, joins the armed services, or is adopted.</p> <p>If the guardian, a parent, the child, an Indian custodian, or the child's tribe shows that it is in the child's best interest, the court can end the guardianship before the child turns 18. The longer the child has lived with the guardian, the harder it is to show that termination is in the child's best interest.</p> <p>If the child consents, the court can extend a guardianship up to the child's 21st birthday to let the child complete a federal application for Special Immigrant Juvenile status.</p>	<p>The guardianship automatically terminates when the child turns 18 or if, before reaching age 18, the child dies, is emancipated by court order, gets married, joins the armed services, or is adopted.</p> <p>The court can terminate the guardianship if it finds that another permanent plan, such as adoption, is in the child's best interest. A social worker or probation officer, the guardian, a parent, the child, an Indian custodian, or the child's tribe can file a request with the juvenile court to terminate the guardianship.</p>
Terminating Parental Rights	<p>Appointment of a probate guardian suspends parental rights, but does not terminate them.</p> <p>However, under the Probate Code, if a child has been living with the guardian for at least two years, the guardian can file a petition to terminate parental rights so that the guardian can adopt the child. Parents are entitled to appointed counsel if this happens. In some situations, specified in the Family Code, the guardian can ask to adopt the child after as few as six months have passed or may need to wait up to three years.</p> <p>If the child is an Indian child, the Indian Child Welfare Act requires different procedures.</p>	<p>Appointment of a juvenile court guardian suspends parental rights, but does not terminate them. A social worker or probation officer, the guardian, or the child can file a request with the juvenile court to terminate parental rights and change the permanent plan to adoption. The court will hold a hearing to decide whether to grant the request. Each parent is entitled to notice of the hearing, to participate, and to have an attorney appointed for them.</p> <p>If the child is an Indian child, the Indian Child Welfare Act requires different procedures.</p>