**Adult Guardianship Petition: Next Steps**

Thank you for using the Interview Assistant to help you complete the “Petition for Appointment of a Guardian for an Incapacitated Person!”

*Please note that completing the interview does not give you any legal rights and is not intended as a substitute for legal advice. You should contact an attorney to obtain legal advice with respect to any particular issue or concern. The goal of this interview is to assist the user in starting the process of an adult guardianship petition and is for informational purposes only. Use of and access to this interview assistant or any links contained within do not create an attorney-client relationship.*

Now that you’ve completed the interview and downloaded your partially completed petition, here are our recommended next steps:

1. Open up the downloaded petition and fill out all personal information on the Petitioner (the person submitting the petition), the proposed guardian, and the Respondent on the first page of the petition. If you have a co-guardian or co-petitioner, you will need to add an additional page to the petition with their address, contact information, and relationship to the Respondent.
2. On pages 3 and 4 of the petition, the petition asks you to fill out information about any interested parties, such as the Respondent’s spouse, siblings, parents, previous guardian(s), etc. Fill out their information on the form and mark their relationship to the Respondent with an X. These are the people you will have to notify of this guardianship petition.
3. Review the entire petition, double check that there are no areas that require your attention and that all the appropriate areas are marked with an X.
4. Check what other documents need to be submitted with this petition:
   1. [Medical Certificate](https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2016/08/xn/mpc400-medical-certificate-guardianship-or-conservatorship-fillable-2010.pdf) OR [Clinical Team Report](https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2016/08/nc/mpc402-clinical-team-report-fill.pdf)
   2. Guardian's Signed [Bond](https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2016/08/ny/mpc801-combined-bond-fill.pdf)(s)
      1. A guardian must sign a “bond.” A bond is a consent to jurisdiction of the court where you are filing the petition as well as a promise that the guardian will use any of the Respondent's money in his or her best interest. Each guardian must sign their own bond, meaning if there are two guardians there needs to be two bonds submitted to the court.
   3. [Military Affidavit](https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2017/10/bae/TC002%2520Uniform%2520Military%2520Affidavit.pdf)
   4. [Verified Motion for Temporary Guardianship](https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2016/08/xa/mpc320-verified-motion-for-appt-temp-guardian-for-incapacitated-person-fill.pdf) (if applicable)
   5. Any Other Documents Related to the Respondent - Health Care Proxy, Durable Power of Attorney, Guardian, Conservator, or Representative Payee (if applicable)
5. Check the costs of filing an adult guardianship petition. Although the court does not charge to file a guardianship petition, it does cost $20 for the paper you will need to notify people and it costs about $150 if you need to notify people through the newspaper or other publication. It costs another $20 for a certified copy of the guardianship papers. If you cannot afford these costs, you may qualify to have part or all of these costs waived (i.e. you would not have to pay). To determine if you qualify to have these costs waived, click [here](https://suffolk-lasm.github.io/Fall-2016-Course-Site/students/harrisonlebov.html). If you have determined that you do qualify to have these costs waived, you will need to submit a form called an "Affidavit of Indigency," which can be found [here](https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2017/09/01/affidavitofindigency.pdf).
6. If you checked off any of the areas in paragraph 14 (on page 6) that require specific court authorization, you will also need to look into a Rogers Guardianship. For more information, click [here](https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2016/08/wx/rogers-guardianship-booklet.pdf).
7. For some general information on Guardianships and Conservatorships, click [here](https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2016/08/ug/mpc190-general-information.pdf).
8. If you need help finding an attorney that specializes in this area, visit the Massachusetts Guardianship Association [website](http://www.massguardianshipassociation.org/) or [mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/finding-a-lawyer).