



## Choosing a Guardian

If you do not have an obvious choice for a guardian for your children, this exercise may be useful. If more than one parent is selecting a guardian, it is recommended that each parent complete this worksheet separately and then compare and combine their results. While no one person is going to have all of the traits and values you may want, this will help you identify what you (and your spouse/co-parent, if that is the case) are looking for in a guardian and why it is important to you.

**Example:**

Quality	Why It Is Important to Me	Rank 1-10 (10 = essential, 1= no big deal)
Loved by my children	Because my children need to be happy	10
Has children of their own	To ensure they know what they are doing	7
Has pets	I love animals and I want my children raised with pets	4

**Some sample qualities to get you started:**

- Love your children/Your children love them
- Live in the same school district
- Have children the same age/Do not have children
- Could take the family pet/They do not have pets (allergies)
- Family members/Not part of your immediate family
- Older/Younger
- Would be willing to move into your home/have space in their home
- Can handle your child’s medical/emotional needs
- Share your religious beliefs
- Share your educational beliefs
- Share your parenting style
- Are financially stable
- Single/married – do you want to name an individual in case the couple divorces or would either person be a good single parent? Do you only want your child to be part of a specific family structure?

