### **GUARDIANSHIP PACKET- MINOR**

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILING FOR GUARDIANSHIP OF MINOR CHILD. IN THE EVENT OF MULTIPLE CHILDREN WITH DIFFERENT PARENTS, YOU MUST FILE SEPARATE GUARDIANSHIP CASES FOR EACH CHILD.

# THESE FORMS MUST BE FILED IN THE PROBATE DEPARTMENT OF THE WYANDOTTE COUNTY DISTRICT COURT, 1st FLOOR 710 N 7th ST KANSAS CITY, KS 66101

READ ALL OF THE DIRECTIONS CAREFULLY – PRINT NEATLY USING BLUE OR BLACK INK ONLY.

COURT STAFF <u>CANNOT</u> PROVIDE ASSISTANCE OR ADVICE IN COMPLETING THESE FORMS.

ONLY ONE-SIDED DOCUMENTS ARE ACCEPTED. DO NOT PRINT DOUBLE SIDED. AS YOU COMPLETE THE FORMS, NO LINE CAN BE LEFT BLANK.

### **CONTENTS:**

INSTRUCTIONS (3 PAGES), CIVIL INFORMATION SHEET (2 PAGES), PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN (4 PAGES), PRELIMINARY ORDER AND NOTICE (1 PAGE), NOTICE OF HEARING (1 PAGE), ENTRY OF APPEARANCE (1 PAGE), UCCJEA (4 PAGES), BASIC INSTRUCTIONS FOR GUARDIANS (9 PAGES), AFFIDAVIT OF COMPLETION OF INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM (1 PAGE), OATH OF GUARDIAN/CO-GUARDIAN (1 PAGE), ORDER APPOINTING GUARDIAN (2 PAGES), LETTERS OF GUARDIANSHIP (1 PAGE), GUARDIAN'S REPORT OF CONDITION OF WARD (2 PAGES)

<u>CAUTION:</u> Use of legal forms without the assistance of a lawyer could harm your legal rights. You may want to have a lawyer review your completed forms before you file them with the court. These are basic forms and do not cover every situation.

### FOLLOW THESE STEPS TO COMPLETE THE GUARDIANSHIP PROCESS

- STEP 1. Petitioner(s), complete the Civil Information Sheet (The person filing the petition will always be designated as the Petitioner.) All self-represented parties must include an email address. This is so the court can notify you of any changes in the court schedule on short notice.
- STEP 2. Petitioner(s) complete the Petition and sign it in front of a notary. At the time you file, you will be given a case number which you should enter on **all** the documents.
- STEP 3. Petitioner(s) complete the Preliminary Order and Notice & UCCJEA. At the time you file, you will be given the time and date of the hearing which you should enter on the Preliminary Order.
- STEP 4. Petitioner(s), you must read the Basic Instructions for Guardianship and complete the Certificate of Completion.
- STEP 5. (**Optional**) Petitioner(s), have the natural guardian sign the Entry and Appearance, Waiver of Notice and Consent in front of a notary public. If you do this, you will not need to have the papers served on the natural guardian.
- STEP 6. Petitioner(s), take the completed forms to the Wyandotte County District Court, Probate Department 1<sup>st</sup> Fl, 710 N 7<sup>th</sup> St, Kansas City, KS and file them with the Clerk. **YOU** MUST FILL #4 OF THE PETITION COMPLETELY OUT.
- STEP 7. Petitioner(s), at the time of filing you will be required to pay the filing fee of \$91.50 in cash, money order or cashier's check payable to the "Clerk of the District Court". If you cannot afford the filing fee, you may complete a Poverty Affidavit, which you can obtain from the Self-Help Center on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. Upon completion the Judge will review the Poverty Affidavit and may or may not approve it.
- STEP 8. Petitioner(s), at the time the Petition is filed, the Court will appoint an attorney to represent the minor child in the proceedings. The aide for the Judge of the probate department will provide you with the name and address of the attorney. You will be required to pay the fees of the attorney who is appointed. These fees cannot be waived. See STEP 19.
- STEP 9. Petitioner, upon filing the Judge will approve the Preliminary Order and Notice of Hearing at which time the date and time of the hearing will be entered. You must then file the Preliminary Order with the Clerk. To obtain a court date, you must email the judges administrative assistant, Tina at <a href="mailto:trockey@wycokck.org">trockey@wycokck.org</a>. All hearings will be held via **ZOOM.**
- STEP 10. Upon filing, Petitioner(s) should obtain a **filed stamped** copy of the Petition, the Preliminary Order and the Notice of Hearing & UCCJEA. Keep these for your records.

STEP 11. Petitioner, you must serve a filed stamped copy of the Petition, the Preliminary Order and the Notice of Hearing on the natural guardian(s) of the minor child and any other interested persons unless they have entered their appearance pursuant to STEP 5 and retain a copy for yourself.

<u>You cannot serve the papers yourself</u>. You must have the Sheriff or Process Server deliver the papers. You will need to pay for service (\$15 if served by a Sheriff in Kansas) and provide an extra copy of the **file stamped papers** to the Sheriff or process server for them to deliver.

If you cannot provide notice of the Guardianship petition to the natural guardian by Sheriff or Process Server, then you may be able to provide notice of the petition by publishing notice in either the Wyandotte Echo or Wyandotte County Business News. You must request permission to do this by filing the "Affidavit for Service by Publication" and obtaining an order from Judge Lynch in Division 10. After you obtain the signed "Order Allowing Service by Publication", you must then publish the notice for 3 consecutive weeks. You must obtain "proof of publication" from the newspaper and file the proof with the court. Court personnel cannot help you with this process.

- STEP 12. The Sheriff or special process server will make a return to the clerk showing how they delivered the papers. Make sure that the papers have been served and the return filed with the Clerk prior to the date of the hearing.
- STEP 13. Petitioner, you must send a copy of the file stamped Petition, Preliminary Order and Notice of Hearing by first class mail, to the attorney who is appointed to represent the minor child.
- STEP 14. Petitioner(s), on the day of the hearing, you are required to **personally appear with the minor(s)** in the Probate Department, 1<sup>st</sup> Fl 710 N 7<sup>th</sup> St Kansas City, Ks 66101. You should be prepared to testify to the Court about the circumstances that require the appointment of a guardian for the minor child.
- STEP 15. Petitioner(s), take to the hearing, the Order Appointing Guardian, the Oath of Guardian and the Letters of Guardianship or Letters of Co-Guardianship. At the hearing give those documents to the Judge for them to complete.
- STEP 16. Petitioner(s), at the conclusion of the hearing, you should take the signed and completed Order Appointing Guardian, the Oath and Letters of Guardianship or Letters of Co-Guardianship to the Clerk of the Probate Department and file them.
- STEP 17. Petitioner(s), at the time you perform **STEP 16**, you should obtain at least one **certified copy** of the Letters of Guardianship or Letters of Co-Guardianship from the Clerk for yourself. They should be kept in a safe place. These are your important documents of authority. Whenever you deal with someone on behalf of the Minor(s), such as the school, physician, hospital or dentist, you should have them make a copy of your Letters of Guardianship so that you retain your copy.

STEP 18. Petitioner(s), you should make arrangements with the attorney who was appointed to represent the Minor(s) to pay the fee you were ordered to pay.

STEP 19. Petitioner(s), remember that you are required to file a Report of the Condition of the Minor(s) with the Clerk of the Probate Department. **ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE YEARLY FROM THE DATE AWARDED**. Failure to complete and return the form to the Clerk may result in termination of the Guardianship.

# IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF WYANDOTTE COUNTY, KANSAS CIVIL COURT DEPARTMENT

### ORDERS CONCERNING ZOOM PROCEEDINGS

NOW ON THIS 15<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2023 the Court enters orders concerning the conduct of Zoom proceedings in Division 10 of the 29<sup>th</sup> Judicial District. The Court orders as follows:

- 1. It is the responsibility of each self-represented litigant to ensure that their Zoom link is correct. It is the responsibility of each self-represented litigant to ensure that their device is properly working for the purpose of the hearing. The Court strongly suggests that the parties familiarize themselves with the Zoom platform before the Court hearing.
- 2. Once a hearing date is set, the parties must file witness and exhibit lists seven days before the hearing. These exhibits must be in digital format and pdf documents are preferred. These documents should be sent to <u>Tina.Rockey@kscourts.org</u>. Paper documents are not to be taken to the clerk's office or left in division 10.
- 3. Once a hearing date has been set, discovery will close 14 days before the hearing.
- 4. All litigants must follow the Kansas Rules of Civil Procedure in presenting evidence. If a party cannot present evidence in accordance with the rules of civil procedure, the court will not admit the proffered evidence into the record.

- 5. Self-represented litigants are considered lawyers in accordance with Kansas case law and the rules of the Kansas Supreme Court. The Court cannot take into account that a self-represented litigant is not law trained.
- 6. After the hearing, it is the responsibility of the self-represented litigant to prepare a proper journal entry and take the same to the Clerk's office. The Clerk will then forward the document to the Court for review and signature.

IT IS SO ORDERED

No. cn=Kathleen Lynch, Digitally signed by Kathleen Lynch, DN: cn=Kathleen Lynch, DN: cn=Ka

For Office Use Only	_

### **CIVIL COVER SHEET**

The civil cover sheet neither replaces nor supplements the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law. This form is required for use by the Clerk of the District Court for the purposes of initiating the civil docket sheet. This information will not be available to the public and this document will be stored in a separate location from the case file and then destroyed within a reasonable time. A new case **will not be accepted** without a cover sheet attached. (THIS FORM MUST BE TYPED OR PRINTED LEGIBLY). This form can be found at www.kscourts.org.

	only one - If the case involves more than one dollar value.)	e of the following categories	, indicate the category having the
<b>CIVIL</b> If a CH. 61: \$ _	(Judgment Demand Amo	ount)	
TORT  ☐ Asbestos Product Liability ☐ Automobile Tort ☐ Intentional Tort	CONTRACT  ☐ Buyer Plaintiff ☐ Employment Dispute - Discrimination ☐ Employment Dispute - Other	REAL PROPERTY  Eminent Domain  Mortgage Foreclosure Other Real Property	☐ STATE TAX WARRANT ☐ OTHER CIVIL
□ Legal Malpractice □ Medical Malpractice □ Other Professional Malpractice □ Premises Liability □ Slander/Libel/Defamation □ Tobacco Product Liability	☐ Fraud ☐ Landlord/Tenant - Forcible Detainer ☐ Landlord/Tenant Dispute - Other ☐ Seller Plaintiff (debt collection) ☐ Other Contract	☐ Tax Foreclosure  MISCELLANEOUS ☐ 60-1507 ☐ Habeas Corpus ☐ Other Writs	□ <u>SMALL CLAIMS</u>
☐ Toxic/Other Product Liability☐ Other Tort☐	CIVIL APPEALS  ☐ Administrative Agency ☐ Other Civil Appeal ☐ Tax Appeal	☐ Name Change ☐ Post Judgment Elevatio ☐ Transfer Pre-Judgment	
<u>DOMESTIC</u>			
☐ MARRIAGE DISSOLUTION/D	DIVORCE	□ PROTECTION FROM S	STALKING □ UIFSA
□ OTHER DOMESTIC RELATION	NS NON-DIVORCE SUPPORT, CL	ISTODY OR VISITATION	□ PATERNITY
□ DOMESTIC FOREIGN JUDGM	ENT (OUT OF COUNTY)		
PROBATE/ESTATE			
GUARDIAN/CONSERVATOR	□ <u>DETERMINATION OF DESCEN</u>	T	
☐ Conservatorship/Trusteeship☐ Guardianship - Adult☐ Conservationship - Miner	☐ SEXUALLY VIOLENT PREDATO	OR ☐ FOREIGN AD	<u>OPTION</u>
☐ Guardianship - Minor ☐ Guardian/Conservator - Adult ☐ Guardian/Conservator - Minor	□ DECEDENT ESTATE	☐ CARE AND TE	<u>REATMENT</u>
☐ Guardian/Conservator – Minor  PROBATE RECORDS	☐ REFUSAL TO GRANT LETTERS	☐ <u>TERMINATIO</u>	ON OF JOINT TENANCY
☐ Probate Record – Other County ☐ Probate Record – Other State	☐ FILING WILL AND AFFIDAVIT	☐ ☐ TERMINATIO	ON OF LIFE ESTATE
1 Frobate Record - Other State	□ OTHER PROBATE/ESTATE		
JURY DEMAND	ES (Check yes only if jury demand is included in p	etition or as a separate pleadin	g)
SUMMONS ATTACHED	SHERIFF'S PRO	CESS FEE ATTACHED	YES NO
☐ SHERIFF	S SERVER/ATTORNEY IN STATE OUT OF STATE	(County) (State)	

PLAINTIFF/SUBJECT (ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEET, IF N			DEFENDAN (ATTACH ADDITIO	T/OTHER PARTY INFORMATION ONAL SHEET, IF NECESSARY)
NAME:			NAME:	
ADDRESS:			ADDRESS: _	
PHONE:	SEX:		PHONE:	SEX:
CELL PHONE:			CELL PHONE	::
E-MAIL:			E-MAIL:	
SSN:	DOB:		SSN:	DOB:
DL OR STATE ID NO:	State and Number		DL OR STAT	E ID NO:State and Number
ALIAS NAMES USED:			ALIAS NAME	ES USED:
ATTORNEYS (Firm Name, Address, Tele Court ID Number)	ephone Number and Supro	eme 	ATTORNEYS (Firm Name, A Court ID Num	Address, Telephone Number and Supreme
FOR DOMESTIC CASE DEPENDENT CHILD:	<u>S - NAME, DATE OF I</u>	BIRTH AN	D SOCIAL S	ECURITY NUMBER OF EACH
(Name)		(Date of B	irth)	(Social Security Number)

The requirement that Social Security numbers be included on domestic cases is mandatory, and authorized by the Supreme Court and federal law. On non-domestic cases, the Social Security number is not mandatory. The number is used for purposes of identification and may be disclosed as permitted by law. This form is not considered to be a public record.

S)  DR APPOINTMENT  CO-GUARD  , A MI  ioner and	IANS
DR APPOINTMENT  CO-GUARD  , A MI	OF IANS
CO-GUARD	IANS
CO-GUARD	IANS
CO-GUARD	IANS
	INOR CHILD(REN)
oner and	
	Petitioner,
se date(s) of birth is	, whose
been since (date)	and who i
person to provide the	
tion was filed, the Min	or(s) lived at the
of Cus	s, Addresses, Relationship stodian who lived with the c(s) at the time
	person to provide the decisions, and provide tion was filed, the Minelow:  City& State Names of Cus

5. List any other court cases, past, or current, in this state or any other, regarding the custody of the Minor(s)				
Name of Court	Case Number	Location of Court		
6natural guardian	(Parent of the Minor(s) i	s our son daughter and is the ovide for the immediate needs of the Minor(s)		
` '	nave been informally placed in Peti equired to permit the Petitioner(s) to	` '		
8. The names and have an interest i	addresses of the following person the Minor(s):	s, besides the Natural Guardian(s)		
Name	Address	Relationship to Minor(s)		
9. The Minor(s) i	s not married and has no children.			
	duciary appointed for the minor, no m any legal right to physical custoo	* *		
11. The Minor(s)	owns no real or personal property	and had no income.		
12. The truth of t and the Petiti	he allegations in this Petition may loners.	be proven by the natural guardian		
13. No personal g	guardian had been appointed for the	e Minor(s) by any Court.		
14. No fiduciary	has been appointed for the Minor(s	) by any Court.		
☐ ha	me) adult is employed at s no personal or agency interest the verse to the best interest of the Mir	at might be perceived as self-serving or		
☐ an ☐ is ☐ ha	me)adult employed at:s no personal or agency interest that verse to the best interest of the Mir	at might be perceived as self-serving or		

17. Petitioner(s) have completed the instructional program required by K.S.A 59-3069. WHEREFORE, Petitioner(s) pray: a. that the Court determine the Minor(s) to be minor child or children in need of a guardian. b. that the Court issue an order setting the date time and place for the hearing on the Petition. c. that the Court issue an order granting Petitioner(s) temporary physical custody of the Minor(s) d. that the Court require the Petitioner(s) to act as provided by law. e. that the Court appoint Petitioner(s) as Guardian Co-Guardians for the Minor(s) and authorize them to act independently of each other. Petitioner (Signature) Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_City, State, ZIP\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: Email: Co-Petitioner (Signature) Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_City, State, ZIP\_\_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: Email:

# STATE OF KANSAS COUNTY OF WYANDOTTE, ss:

that the statements made in this Pe	tition are true and correct.
Executed thisday of	, 20
	Petitioner Co-Petitioner
SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to	before me, a Notary Public, this day of, 20
	Notary Dyklia
	Notary Public My Appointment expires

IN THE MATTER OF THE GUARDIANSHIP OF	7
, A MINOR(S)	Case No Div. 10
Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 59	<u> </u>
PRELIMINAR	AY ORDER AND NOTICE
NOW on this the day of following preliminary orders and notice red	, 20 the Court makes the quirements:
1. A hearing on the Petition for App	pointment of Guardian/Co-Guardians for  Minor(s) is set for the day of  a.m p.m. via <b>ZOOM.</b>
	porary custody of the Minor(s) until further order of
3. The minor child shall personally order.	appear at the hearing set forth in paragraph 1 of this
4, a q	qualified, practicing attorney, whose address is,, Kansas,(zip), is es of the proceedings.
5. The Wyandotte County Sheri a special process server shall personally secopy of this order, a copy of the petition ar service.	rve(attorney) with a nd a copy of the Notice of Hearing and file a proof of
	rve a copy of the Petition, this Preliminary Order and dian and the following persons:
Name and Address	
IT IS SO ORDERED.	
	Judge of the District Court

IN THE MATTER OF THE O	GUARDIANSHIP OF		
	_, A MINOR(S)	Case No Div. 10	
Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 5	9	_	
	NOTICE OF H	<u>EARING</u>	
THE STATE OF KANSAS T	O ALL PERSONS CO	ONCERNED:	
You are notified that on the _	day of	, 20, a l	Petition
was filed in this Court by			
requesting to be appointed a [	☐ Guardian ☐ Co-G	uardian for	
		Minor(s). You are	e requested to file your
written defenses to the Petitio	on on or before the	_ day of	, 20, at
a.m p.m. in	the District Court, Di	strict County, Kansas, I	Probate Department,
710 N 7 <sup>th</sup> St, Kansas City, KS be held via <b>ZOOM.</b>	6 66101, at which time	the Petition will be hea	ard. The hearing will
Should you fail to file your w upon the Petition.	ritten defenses, judgm	ent and decree will be	entered in due course
	Signati	ure of Petitioner	
	Signati	ure of Co-Petitioner	

IN THE MATTER OF T	HE GUARDIANSHIP OF	
	, A MINOR(S)	Case No Div. 10
Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapt	er 59	
	RY OF APPEARANCE, WA	AIVER OF NOTICE, ENT OF GUARDIAN FOR MINOR
	, natural guardian of	
	, Minor(s) and enters	s their appearance in this action, waives
further notice of hearing of	on the Petition for Appointmer	nt of Guardian/Co-Guardian for the
Minor(s), and further con	sents to an entry of an order ap	ppointingan
	Guardian/Co-Guardians o	of the Minor(s).
Date signed	Signature	
State of Kansas County of Wyandotte		
This instrument was ackn	owledged before me this	day of, 20
by	·	
	Notary Pul	
	My Appoir	ntment expires

IN THE MATTER OF	THE GUARDIANSHIP OF			
	, A MINOR(S)	Case Div.	e No 10	_
Pursuant to K.S.A. Cha	apter 59			
UNIFORM CHIL	D CUSTODY JURISDI	CTION AND ENI	FORCEMENT A	CT (UCCJEA)
	Al	FFIDAVIT 23-37,101 et seq.)		
I,	(full legal	name), certify that	the following state	ements are true:
1. The names and da proceeding are:	ates of birth of the childrer	n now under eighteer	n years of age and	subject to this
b c.	(child's nan (child's nan (child's nan (child's nan	ne), was born in ne), was born in	(month) (month)	(year). (year).
2. The child(ren) now	live with:			(name of adult)
at		(	Street address),	
	(city),	(state) and ha	ve lived at this place	e since
	(date). (Add add	litional pages if more s	space is needed.)	
3. The child(ren) lived	d at the following addresses v	with the custodian(s) li	sted during the past	five years:
From Date	Until Date	City, State	of Custo with Chi Custodia	nd Relationship dian(s) Living ild, and an(s) Present

	een involved in a court cag court cases are on file ab	se involving the custody o out the child(ren):	r visitation of the
Type of Case	Court, City and State	Case Number	Last Order Date
current proceeding inclu to domestic violence, pro court cases are on file an	ding but not limited to pro otective orders, termination and could affect the current	. 0	and proceedings relating loption. The following
Type of Case	Court, City and State	Case Number	Last Order Date

Name	Address, City and State	Check the box that applies
		☐Has Physical Custody
		□Claims Custody Rights □Claims Visitation Rights
		☐ Has Physical Custody
		□Claims Custody Rights □Claims Visitation Rights
		☐ Has Physical Custody
		□Claims Custody Rights □Claims Visitation Rights
		☐Has Physical Custody☐Claims Custody Rights
		□Claims Visitation Rights
		☐Has Physical Custody☐Claims Custody Rights
		□Claims Custody Rights □Claims Visitation Rights
	I have a continuing duty to inform the counffect the current proceeding.	rt of proceeding(s) in this or any
	of perjury under the laws of the state of K, 20	ansas that the foregoing is true an
	X	
	Signature	

(Make as many copies o	f this page as necessary.)		
THE FOLLOWING IN	NFORMATION IS TRUE:		
(Child's Full Legal address(es) with the	Name)adult(s) listed during the		ved at the following
From Date	Until Date	City, State	Name and Relationship of Adult(s) Living with Child, and Adult(s) Present Address
(Child's Full Legal	NFORMATION IS TRUE:  Name) adult(s) listed during the		ved at the following
From Date	Until Date	City, State	Name and Relationship of Adult(s) Living with Child, and Adult(s) Present Address

## **BASIC INSTRUCTIONS** FOR GUARDIANS

**January 1, 2009**Revised and Updated - 2017
Kansas Judicial Council

### Preface

These basic instructions for guardians were prepared by the Guardianship and Conservatorship Advisory Committee of the Kansas Judicial Council. After their original publication in January 2009, the instructions were revised and updated in June 2015 and again in 2017. The instructions constitute the basic instructional program concerning the duties and responsibilities of a guardian required by K.S.A. 59-3069(j). After reading these instructions, a proposed guardian should sign the affidavit of completion at the end of this booklet and file it with the court as evidence of completion of the basic instructional program.

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### BASIC INSTRUCTIONS FOR GUARDIANS

### **Definitions of Words You Need to Know:**

**Guardian** - A guardian is a person appointed by a court to act on behalf of a minor or impaired person, who is called a "ward." A guardian manages a ward's personal health, safety, and welfare.

**Ward** - A ward is a person for whom a guardian has been appointed. A ward may be either a minor or an adult person with an impairment.

**Conservator** - A conservator is a person appointed by a court to act on behalf of a minor or impaired person, who is called a "conservatee." A conservator manages a conservatee's property or "estate," such as money, personal and real property.

**Conservatee** - A conservatee is a person for whom a conservator has been appointed. A conservatee may be a minor, an adult person with an impairment, or a person who has voluntarily requested a conservatorship.

**NOTE:** Sometimes, a person is appointed as both a guardian and conservator. In that case, the person they are helping may be called either a ward or conservatee, or both.

### What Are a Guardian's Powers and Duties?

The basic duties, responsibilities, powers and authorities of guardians are defined by statute and can be found at K.S.A. 59-3075. The following is a general overview.

A guardianship is a legal proceeding filed to protect an impaired person, who is called a "ward." A guardian manages a ward's personal health, safety, and welfare. If the court appoints you as guardian your job is separate from the duties of a conservator, though the court may appoint the same person to serve in both roles. As guardian you are always subject to the control and direction of the court. After a hearing to determine whether a guardianship is necessary, a court order will be issued. Your attorney should provide you with a copy of that court order.

State law and the court define a guardian's power and set the rules to be followed when caring for the ward. At all times, a guardian is under the court's direction and control. A guardian must always act in the ward's best interest and use reasonable care and attention. EACH YEAR THE GUARDIAN MUST FILE A REPORT WITH THE COURT TELLING THE COURT ABOUT THE GUARDIAN'S ACTIONS AND THE WARD'S CONDITION.

If the court authorizes a guardian to exercise authority over a ward's estate valued at less than \$10,000, the guardian may have many of the same duties as a conservator, including filing an annual accounting with the court. In that situation, a guardian might find it helpful to read the booklet, "Basic Instructions for a Conservator," which includes a sample accounting form.

As a guardian, your job is to get to know the ward and the ward's family, friends, and care givers. You should use your authority only as needed and allow the ward to take part in decisions. You should consider the ward's personal desires and values when making decisions on the ward's behalf. You should encourage the ward to make decisions, develop skills for daily living, and do as much as the ward can on his or her own.

The law does **NOT** require you as guardian to use your own personal money or other assets for support of the ward solely because you have been appointed as guardian. **However**, if you are the parent or spouse of the ward, you may have a personal duty to support the ward. For example, each parent has a legal duty to support his or her minor child by paying the ordinary expenses of the child's care, treatment, housing and education.

You are not liable to other persons for the acts of the ward solely because you have been appointed as guardian. This means you are not responsible to anyone else for something that the ward has done simply because you are the guardian.

You should protect the ward's personal, civil, and human rights. The law requires that you MUST ALWAYS act in the best interest of the ward and exercise reasonable care, diligence, and good sense.

# A guardian has the following general duties, responsibilities, powers and authorities, which may be exercised without getting additional court approval:

- 1. If the ward is a minor, to have custody and control of the minor and to provide for the minor's care, treatment, housing, education, support and maintenance;
- 2. If the ward is an adult, to take charge of the person of the ward and to provide for the ward's care, treatment, housing, education, support and maintenance;
- 3. To consider and either provide on behalf of the ward necessary or required consents or refuse the same (e.g. release of medical records; consent to services and supports provided);
- 4. To assure that the ward lives in the least restrictive setting that meets the ward's needs and is reasonably available;
- 5. To assure that the ward receives all necessary and reasonably available medical care or services to preserve the ward's health. This also includes assisting the ward to develop or retain skills and abilities;
- 6. To consent to experimental procedures only if approved by an institutional review board or committee:
- 7. To protect the health, safety and welfare of the ward;
- 8. To revoke a durable power of attorney for health care decisions; and
- 9. To make necessary arrangements for the ward's funeral, burial or cremation.

# As a guardian, you may NOT take any of the following actions UNLESS the supervising court issues a written order approving the action(s):

- 1. Consent to adoption of the ward;
- 2. Consent to any psychosurgery, organ or limb removal except in a life-threatening emergency or to prevent lasting impairment to the ward's physical health;
- 3. Consent to sterilization of the ward;
- 4. Consent to withholding or withdrawal of life-saving medical care unless the ward previously made a written advance directive (living will, durable power of attorney for health care decisions, or similar document) that meets legal requirements;
- 5. Have any control over the ward's property, unless the Letters of Guardianship authorize you to do so **AND** the value of the ward's property is less than \$10,000;
- 6. Place the ward in a psychiatric treatment facility;
- 7. Access digital assets of the ward, such as online accounts, pictures and music stored electronically, social media accounts, etc.;
- 8. Pay the guardian or the guardian's attorney a fee; or
- 9. Dispose of property after the ward's death.

### As a guardian, you may NEVER take any of the following actions:

- 1. Prohibit the marriage or divorce of the ward; or
- 2. Consent to termination of the ward's parental rights.

### What Are a Guardian's Responsibilities to the Court?

### **Required Training**

Before you are appointed as guardian, you must complete a basic training program about the duties and responsibilities of a guardian. Reading this booklet meets that requirement. At the end of this booklet, you will find an affidavit of completion of the basic training program (a form stating you have read the booklet). When you finish reading this booklet, you should sign the affidavit and file it with the court to prove that you have completed the program. You should also keep this booklet for future reference.

### Oath

When you are appointed as guardian, the court will require that you file an oath or affirmation stating that you will faithfully, impartially and to the best of your ability fulfill all duties assigned by the court. The oath must be in writing and signed before a notary or the judge.

### Letters

After you have filed your oath and affidavit of completion of the basic training program, the court will issue Letters of Guardianship. This document gives you the authority to carry out your legal duties. You should ask for a certified (legal) copy of the original document, which is on file with the court. You should keep the certified copy in a safe place and provide copies of the Letters of Guardianship to anyone you deal with who provides services to the ward.

### **Guardianship Plan**

In some cases, the court may require, or your attorney may suggest, that you file a guardianship plan. A guardianship plan might include provisions about where a ward will live and what kinds of decisions the ward will be allowed to make on his or her own, and, if no conservator has been appointed, how the ward's financial assets will be used. Guardianship plans are most useful in situations where the ward is capable of making some decisions independently.

### Guardian's Annual Report on the Ward's Condition

Because the court needs to know where the ward is living and how the ward is doing, a guardian must file a report on the ward's condition every year. This report is required even if there is no change in the ward's condition. The reporting period usually starts when the guardian is appointed and covers a 12-month period of time, unless the judge orders a different reporting time period. If a guardian fails to file the required annual report, the court may compel the guardian to appear and take actions to remove that person as guardian. A sample of the annual report is included at the end of this booklet.

### **Special Reports and Accountings**

A guardian must file a special report or accounting with the court if any of the following occurs:

- 1) a change of address of the guardian;
- 2) a change of residence or placement of the ward;
- 3) a significant change in the health or impairment of the ward;
- 4) if the ward acquires any real property, or if the ward receives or accumulates other property or income which causes the total value of the ward's estate to equal or exceed \$10,000;
- 5) a change in the circumstances of the guardian or ward that may constitute a conflict of interest; or
- 6) the death of the ward.

You should also inform the court if your telephone number or email address changes. If the ward dies, you will need to complete a final report on the ward's condition so that the court can close the case.

### **Reimbursement for Time and Expenses**

The court must approve in advance any reimbursement to the guardian for expenses and time spent on official duties. If you want to be paid back for your time and expenses, you must keep a detailed timesheet of time spent and a detailed record of expenses incurred. Many guardians do not claim such expenses, especially if the ward is a family member, and perform their duties out of love and affection. If you want to receive reimbursement, you should talk to your attorney and bring this up preferably at the first court hearing.

### **How Does a Guardianship End?**

A guardianship never ends automatically. The court may end a guardianship for a number of different reasons, including when the need for it no longer exists, when the ward has turned 18 (and was not determined to be a minor with an impairment), or when the ward has died. At any time, any person including the ward may file a petition asking the court to end the guardianship for any of the reasons listed above.

The court may also end a guardianship because the ward is no longer impaired. At any time, the ward may file a petition asking the court to find that he or she is no longer impaired and requesting to be restored to capacity.

If the court ends a guardianship, the court will enter appropriate orders to close the case.

### What are Conflicts of Interest?

A conflict of interest happens when your personal or financial interests as guardian go against those of the ward or where your actions appear to be self-serving (for your own benefit). For example, it would be a conflict of interest for a guardian to get a loan from or buy property belonging to the ward's estate. It could also be a conflict of interest for a guardian to work in the same facility where the ward lives.

Whenever you think you might have a conflict of interest, even if you are not sure, report it to the court. Just because you may have a conflict of interest does not mean you cannot serve as guardian, as long as you keep the court informed.

### **Additional resources:**

If you have questions about any of your duties as a guardian, ask your attorney. Additional resources, including blank forms for guardian's reports, can be found on the Kansas Judicial Council's webpage at: <a href="https://www.kansasjudicialcouncil.org">www.kansasjudicialcouncil.org</a>

### **SAMPLE**

# IN THE 29th JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT OF WYANDOTTE COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Guardianship of Samuel G. Crown

Case No.	
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	

Proceeding Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 59

# X ANNUAL \_ FINAL REPORT ON THE CONDITION OF THE GUARDIAN'S WARD

From July 01, 2013 to June 30, 2014

Marjorie Crestone 3299 Smithville Road, Apartment #4
Name Address

Sanesville, KS 66666 (785) 999-71000 mcrestone@gmail.com

City & Zip Code Telephone Number Email Address

guardian in the above-entitled estate submits the following annual report on the condition of

Samuel G. Crown 1942
Name Year of Birth

- 1. The ward resided at the following places during the reporting period:

  39 Solar Haven Rd, Sanesville, KS 66666 Own home 22 years

  (address) (type of residence) (length of stay)
- 2. State the approximate number of times the guardian has contact with the ward, the of such contacts, and the date the ward was last seen by the guardian:

Guardian visits ward in his own home approximately two to three times per month.

Guardian checks on the ward's health status, sufficient groceries, household and personal care items, and the home cleanliness, maintenance and upkeep.

3. Summarize the medical, social, educational, vocational and other professional services received by the ward during the reporting period:

Samuel is retired. He is recuperating from recent hip surgery and receives bi-weekly physical therapy; he takes medications for diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease and pain associated with osteoporosis. He has monthly doctor appointments to monitor medications. Additionally, a home health nurse visits weekly to set up his medications. Samuel reads, watches TV and enjoys activities at the senior center and periodic visits from his greatniece who lives out of state.

If the ward is institutionalized, the results of an investigation into the nature and appropriateness of the ward's care and treatment are as follows:
 Ward lives in his own home. Following hip surgery in August 2013, he recuperated

for three weeks in a local nursing home after which he was able to return home.

5. What changes in the mental or physical condition of the ward has the guardian observed?

During the past year, Samuel experienced several episodes of memory lapses for which he is now receiving medication. The doctor indicates Samuel is in early stages of Alzheimer's disease. He had hip replacement surgery in August 2013 and now is able to walk using a cane. Other medical conditions are stable.

6. What major problems relating to the guardianship, if any, have arisen during the reporting period?

A former neighbor who had exploited Samuel attempted to reintroduce himself into Samuel's life. Guardian secured a restraining order against the person. No other problems were experienced.

7. In the opinion of the guardian, does the guardianship need to continue, and is it necessary to increase or decrease the powers of the guardian?

The guardian has advocated and provided consents regarding health care, home maintenance and freedom from exploitation. Guardianship should continue with the current powers.

- 8. State compensation requested and expenses incurred by the guardian: **Refer to itemized list attached**.
- 9. What circumstances, if any, have arisen during the reporting period that could constitute a conflict of interest between the guardian and ward?

  None.
- 10. Other information required by the court is:

I declare under penalty of perjury under the la correct. Executed on June 30, 2014.	ws of the state of Kansas that the foregoing is true and
	Guardian

IN THE MATTER OF	F THE GUARDIANS	HIP OF	
	, A MINOR	(S)	Case No Div. 10
Pursuant to K.S.A. Ch	apter 59	<del></del>	
		IDAVIT OF COM	MPLETION NAL PROGRAM
	ctions. I acknowle		Basic Instructions for Guardians and kept a ian, I have the duties and responsibilities
I declare un	der penalty of perj	ury that this is tru	e and correct.
Executed on this	day of	, 20	
			Signature
			Please Print Your Name
			Address
			Telephone Number
			Email Address

IN THE MATTER OF THE GUARDIANSH	IP OF
, A MINOR(S	Case No Div. 10
Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 59	
OATH OF	GUARDIAN/CO-GUARDIAN
ability discharge all the duties of trust	WYANDOTTE I,
-	Guardian/Co-Guardian
Signed and sworn to or affirmed before	re me on thisday of, 20
_	Notary/Judge of District court
My Appointment expires	

IN THE MATTER OF THE GUARDIANSHIP OF	7
, A MINOR(S)	Case No Div. 10
Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 59	_
ORDER APPOINTING GUARDIAN	CO-GUARDIANS FOR MINOR
NOW, on this the day of on for hearing on the Petition of for appointment as Guardian/Co-Guardians for	, 20, this matter comes
for appointment as Guardian/Co-Guardians for	Minor(s).
Petitioner(s) appear in person. The Minor(s)	
THEREUPON, the Court, having heard the hearing the arguments of counsel, makes the follow	
1. That notice of the hearing has been given as requbeen filed and is approved.	nired by law, and proof of service has
2	is a Minor(s) in need of a guardian.
3. Petitioner(s) have filed evidence of completion of by K.S.A. 59-3069(j).	of the instructional program required
4. (Optional), the has consented to the appointment of Petitioner(s) as	natural guardian of the Minor(s) s Guardian/Co-Guardians of the Minor(s).
5. The allegations of the Petition are true.	
6 and appointed Guardian/Co-Guardians of the Minor (s) Letters of Guardianship/Co-Guardianship issued w	
7. (Optional)The Co-Guardians may act indep	pendently from each other.

8.	has performed services as attorney for	or the	
Minors, pursuant to the appointment by the Court and shall be allowed \$ for the			
services which shall be paid by Per	titioner(s) for which judgment is granted again	nst Petitioner(s)	
	d at this time, by the Guardian/Co-Guardians s		
<u>*</u>	ward not later than one year from the filing dat	e of this order	
and each year thereafter until furth	er order of the Court.		
IT IS SO ORDERED.			
	T 1		
	Judge		
Approved:			
D. C.C.			
Petitioner			
Petitioner			
Attorney for Minor(s)			

IN THE MATTER OF THE GUARDIANSHIP OF	F
, A MINOR(S)	Case No Div. 10
Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 59	<u> </u>
<u>LETTERS OF GU</u>	<u>ARDIANSHIP</u>
Guardian of the person of, Minor(s), is granted Letters of Guardianship with fineluding all powers and duties of Guardian as set	
	ge of the 29th Judicial District, District Court, nave signed my name and affixed the seal of
Judge of Dist	crict Court

IN THE	E MATTER OF THE GUARD	ANSHIP OF			
	, A MI	NOR(S)	Case Div.	No	
Pursuan	nt to K.S.A. Chapter 59				
	☐ ANNUAL	. ☐ FINAL REPORT OF THE GUARDIA			
	From	, 20 to		, 20	
Name			Address		
City &	z Zip Code	Telephone Nun	nber	Email Address	
guardi condit	an in the above-entitled entitled of	state submits the follo	wing (ann	ual) (final) report on the	
Name		Year	of Birth		
1.	The ward resided at the fo	The ward resided at the following places during the reporting period:			
(addres	ss) (t	ype of residence)		(length of stay)	
2.	State the approximate number of times the guardian has had contact with the ward, the of such contacts, and the date the ward was last seen by the guardian:				
3.	Summarize the medical, received by the ward dur			d other professional services	

4.	If the ward is institutionalized, the results of an investigation into the nature and appropriateness of the ward's care and treatment are as follows:
5.	What changes in the mental or physical condition of the ward has the guardian observed?
6.	What major problems relating to the guardianship, if any, have arisen during the reporting period?
7.	In the opinion of the guardian, does the guardianship need to continue, and is it necessary to increase or decrease the powers of the guardian?
8.	State compensation requested, and expenses incurred by the guardian:
9.	What circumstances, if any, have arisen during the reporting period that could constitute a conflict of interest between the guardian and ward?
10.	Other information required by the court is:
	lare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Kansas that the foregoing is true and ct. Executed on
	Guardian

# USE THE FOLLOWING FORMS ONLY IF YOU HAVE TO DO SERVICE BY PUBLICATION.

IN TH	IE MATTER OF TI	HE GUARDIANSHIP OF	
		, A MINOR(S)	Case No Div. 10
Pursua	ant to K.S.A. Chapte	er 59	
	<u><b>AF</b></u>	FIDAVIT FOR SERVICE BY	<u>PUBLICATION</u>
Havin	g been properly swo	rn by a notary public, I state the fo	ollowing for my affidavit:
1.	I am the person wh	o filed the guardianship petition i	in this matter.
2. service		it so that I can obtain an order allo petition upon the natural guardia	•
guardi diliger even t	the natural guardian an, even though I ha ntly searched telepho	is currently living even though I ve searched through documents in the listings in the places I believe tly searched publicly available in	ral guardian because I do not know have asked people who know the natural n my possession, even though I have the natural guardian may now live, and ternet resources for information about
4.	The last address at	t which the natural guardian lived	was:
5. service		essfully to serve the natural guardip petition and summons.	lian by certified mail and personal
	☐ I have taken the	e following steps to locate all other	er natural guardians/interested parties:
	<u>Name</u>	Action Taken	<u>Date</u>

	X
	XYour Signature
	Name (Print):
	Address:
	City, State, Zip:
	Telephone Number:
	Email:
STATE OF KANSAS COUNTY OF	
Signed or attested before me on this	day of, 20, by
	<del>.</del>
	Notary Public

IN THE MATTER OF THE GUARDIANSH	IIP OF
, A MINOR(S	Case No Div. 10
Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 59	
ORDER ALLOWING S	SERVICE BY PUBLICATION
The Court finds:	
1. The Petitioner filed an Affidavit seeking pub.	lication service upon the Respondent.
3. The Petitioner is allowed to give notice to the by publication service as is provided by K.S.A. 59.305	e Natural Guardian of the filing of the Guardianship Petition 50
IT IS SO ORDERED.	
	Judge of the District Court
Submitted by: X Signature of Petitioner	_
Signature of Petitioner	
Petitioner's Name (Print):	_
Address:City, State, Zip:	-
City, State, Zip:	
Telephone:Email:	
L/IIIdii.	_