

# PLANNING FOR GUARDIANSHIP

---

## WHO WILL RAISE THE KIDS IF WE DIE?



### Where, how and with whom do you want your children to grow up?

No one will compare to you as a parent of your young children. However, in your absence, who will raise the kids? The individual who would raise your children in the event of your death is called a guardian.

Some common considerations parents make when selecting a guardian for their children are:

- Current age and lifestyle of the proposed guardian
- Family dynamics
- Location/school district
- Religion
- Would the proposed guardian encourage and facilitate contact with family members that are unrelated to the guardian?

### What if something changes? Focus on the next 5 years...

It is common for life circumstances to change as time passes, including health changes, death, relocation or marital status changes of a proposed guardian. Therefore, it can be overwhelming to decide who would be the “perfect” guardian for the next 18+ years, as we simply do not know what lies ahead for a proposed guardian or for your children.

For that reason, some clients find it helpful to focus on the next five years. If circumstances change, so can your choice of guardian. As long as you have the mental capacity to do so, you can make changes to your choice of guardian in your Will at any time.

### Successor Guardian

In case your first choice of guardian is unable or unwilling to serve, you should name a successor or back-up guardian.