

PERMANENT GUARDIAN'S RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Participate in staffings and court hearings related to the child.
- **Must strictly follow** the court's order on the frequency and nature of visitation or contact between child and his/her parents, grandparents and siblings. Physical care and custody of the child is to the Permanent Guardian **only** and cannot be transferred or designated to anyone else without prior court approval.
- Shall **NOT** return child to the physical care and custody of the person from whom the child was removed without the approval of the court.
- Is **required** to participate in annual redetermination for continued financial benefits.

OTHER IMPORTANT FACTS:

- The court shall retain jurisdiction over the case and child shall remain in the custody of the Permanent Guardian unless the order creating the permanent guardianship is modified by the court.
- The court shall discontinue regular review hearings and relieve the department of the responsibility for supervising the placement of the child.

OTHER IMPORTANT FACTS [continued]:

- Placement of a child in a permanent guardianship situation does not terminate the parent-child relationship to include the child's right to inherit from his or her parents.
- The parents are responsible for providing financial, medical, and other support for the child as ordered by the court.
- The Permanent Guardian, Parents, Department or Guardian ad Litem Program can motion the court to reopen the case. The court may reopen the case if it determines it is in the child's best interest.



For Additional information
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PERMANENT GUARDIANSHIP OF A DEPENDENT CHILD





ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- Child must be adjudicated dependent.
- For non-licensed caregivers, a homestudy must be completed, filed with and approved by the court.
- Agency and court must supervise child's placement for no less than 6 months. This includes agency visits to the home no less than every 30 days and regular court hearings.
- Child demonstrated a strong attachment to the prospective permanent guardian.
- Permanent Guardian has made a commitment to provide for the child until the child reaches the age of majority and will prepare the child for adulthood and independence.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS [continued]:

- Permanent Guardian must agree to give notice of any changes in their residential address or the residence of the child by filing a written document with the clerk of the court.
- The court must determine that reunification or adoption is not in the best interest of the child.
- The court must determine that the child and the caregiver are not likely to need supervision or services to ensure the stability of the permanent guardianship.

BENEFITS:

- A Permanent Guardian who is licensed and has received foster care payments for 6 consecutive months at the time of case closure is eligible to participate in the Guardian Assistance Program (GAP) that provides a monthly stipend until the child is 18; may extend to age 21 if the child is 16 or older at the time of GAP determination and meets the qualifying requirements.
- Support to access resources is available after case closure for Permanent Guardians who participate in GAP.

BENEFITS [continued]:

- If not GAP eligible, a Permanent Guardian is eligible to receive Relative or Non-Relative Caregiver Funds until child reaches age 18, as determined by Economic Social Services.
- After case closure, the Permanent Guardian makes decisions pertaining to the child's physical, medical, dental, mental health and academic and social well being.
- Upon reaching age 18, child is eligible for the Educational Tuition and Fee Exemption, if the caregiver is eligible for the Relative Caregiver / Non-Relative Caregiver Funds or GAP benefits.
- Child may qualify for Postsecondary Educational Services and Support if placed with a court-approved dependency guardian after reaching age 16, and had spent at least 6 months in licensed foster care immediately preceding the placement.

