



Superior Court of California, County of Merced

Guardianship of the Person Forms Packet

A guardianship of the person is when a court orders a responsible adult, not the child's parents, to have custody of a child.

This packet has:

- Information and instructions for requesting a guardianship
- Forms for you to fill out to ask for guardianship
- Forms to ask for a temporary guardianship (if there is an emergency)

Consider using the [guardianship form preparation program](https://www.mercedcourt.org/online_form_preparation.shtml) at:

https://www.mercedcourt.org/online_form_preparation.shtml. There are a lot of forms, and using the program can save you a lot of time and help you fill out everything you need.

The form preparation program includes the forms for a temporary guardianship, too, if you say there is an emergency.

The general steps in a guardianship are:

- Fill out all the forms to start a guardianship case.
- Fill out the forms to also ask for a temporary guardianship if there is an emergency.
- Make several copies of all of your papers. You will need a copy for you, and copies for each relative and government agency that needs to be notified of the case.
- File the original and copies of your forms at the courthouse.
- Find someone not involved in the case, 18 or older, to deliver copies of the forms to each relative and government agency that has to be notified. Some relatives, like the parents

and the child if at least 12 years old, must be served in person. Others can be served by mail.

- Have that person fill out the proof of service sections of the Notice of Hearing (GC-020) or separate Proofs of Service for each person served.
- Go to your court hearing. If the court investigator contacts you before your hearing, make sure you talk to them.

Need Help?

If you need more help, you may want to:

- Use our [form preparation programs](#) at: https://www.mercedcourt.org/online_form_preparation.shtml. The programs ask you questions and use your information to fill out the forms for you.
 - Use this program to ask for guardianship: www.sharpcourts.org/guardianship/
- Get help from the [Self-Help Center](#): https://www.mercedcourt.org/self_help_center.shtml
- Talk to a lawyer.