

## Who should be our Guardians? – Information Guide

When choosing a guardian, you should consider the following:

- (a) The age, health and any special needs of your children.
- (b) Your relationship with your child's other parent – if you are separated or divorced from the other parent, then you might consider appointing a member of your family to take your place as guardian on your death, but you should consider the practical implications of such a decision.
- (c) The circumstances of your guardian including the following:
  - (i) The age and health of the proposed guardian. For example, many people select their parents as guardians, but you will need to consider if your parents are physically well enough and capable of taking on the job and whether they have the energy and patience to raise a young family.
  - (ii) Does the proposed guardian share the same values, morals, lifestyle and religious beliefs as you?
  - (iii) The guardian will decide where the children are to live – either with the guardian, or with someone nominate by the guardian. If it is anticipated that the children will live with the guardian, where does the proposed guardian live? If your nominated guardian lives interstate or overseas, then will your children move away from their current place of residence to live with the guardian, or do you expect your guardian to move to be with your children? You should consider the practical implications of this including the costs associated with your decision.
  - (iv) Your guardian's family situation and financial situation. If your guardian has children of his or her own and your children are to live with the guardian, then is the family as a whole capable of taking on the responsibility of raising your children in addition to their own? Will they be able to accommodate your children in their current home? Do you want your estate to provide them funding to upgrade their residence?
  - (v) Are there any associated issues you will need to consider, such as whether your children will attend the same school as your guardian's children? For example, if you want your children to attend a private school and your guardian's children attend a public school, then you will need to consider whether that difference will create issues for your children and your guardian's family.
  - (vi) Is the guardian willing and able to act? You should consider discussing your preference with the proposed guardian before nominating them in your Will. If you have teenage children or feel your children are mature enough, then consider whether it is appropriate for you to discuss your decision with them.

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