**CHOOSING A GUARDIAN OR CONSERVATOR\***

Choosing a guardian or conservator for your children is a crucial decision that parents should carefully consider. A guardian is someone who will take care of your children if both parents pass away or become unable to care for them, while a conservator is responsible for managing the financial affairs of your children. Here are some important steps and factors to consider when selecting a guardian or conservator:

1. Understand the Roles:
	* Guardian: The guardian is responsible for the physical and emotional well-being of your children, including their daily care, education, and upbringing.
	* Conservator: The conservator manages the financial assets and affairs of your children, ensuring that their financial needs are met.
2. Legal Documentation:
	* Consult an attorney who specializes in family law and estate planning to help you create legally binding documents, such as a will or a trust, to designate your choices for guardian and conservator.
3. Discuss with Potential Guardians:
	* Talk to potential guardians about their willingness to take on this responsibility and their parenting philosophies. Ensure they share similar values, beliefs, and parenting styles as you.
4. Consider Practical Factors:
	* Proximity: Ideally, the guardian should live relatively close to your current residence, so it's easier for your children to maintain stability and stay in their familiar environment.
	* Age and Health: Consider the potential guardian's age and health. Selecting someone significantly older may raise concerns about their ability to care for your children for an extended period.
	* Existing Family Dynamics: Take into account the potential guardian's own family situation, including their own children and their relationships with your children.
5. Financial Responsibility:
	* Ensure the conservator has financial responsibility and knowledge to manage your children's assets prudently until they reach adulthood.
6. Legal Capacity:
	* Ensure that the individuals you choose as guardian and conservator are legally eligible and have the capacity to fulfill these roles. Certain criminal records or financial issues may disqualify them.
7. Temporary Guardianship:
	* Consider designating a temporary guardian in case the permanent guardian cannot immediately take on the responsibility.
8. Alternates:
	* Designate alternates for both guardian and conservator roles in case your first choices are unable or unwilling to fulfill their duties.
9. Review and Update:
	* Periodically review and update your choice of guardian and conservator as circumstances change. Life events such as divorce, relocation, or changes in relationships may necessitate adjustments.
10. Communicate Your Wishes:
	* Clearly communicate your wishes to your chosen guardian, conservator, and family members. Make sure everyone involved understands your intentions.
11. Legal Advice:
	* Seek legal advice to ensure that your designated guardian and conservator choices are legally sound and enforceable.
12. Documentation:
	* Ensure that all necessary legal documents are in place, including wills, trusts, and any additional legal arrangements.

Choosing a guardian and conservator for your children is a significant decision, and it's important to approach it with careful consideration, consultation with legal experts, and open communication with all parties involved. Review and update your choices as needed to reflect your evolving circumstances and preferences.

*\*The receipt of this brochure is not intended to create an attorney-client relationship between you and Levelle Law LLC. An attorney-client relationship is not established until we receive the necessary information and confirm such a relationship in writing. Please contact Michael D. Levelle, attorney, to provide the information necessary to establish an attorney-client relationship.*