

# Your baby's guardian.

Thinking about a guardian for your baby is tough. No one likes to think about not being there for their child. But it's good to have a plan and it's really important to do.

## What is a guardian?

A guardian is someone you name in your will who represents your preferences for your child if you are no longer around.

They won't necessarily be looking after your child day-to-day. They can oversee your child's interests more broadly.

You can name more than one guardian. If you do, it's important to think about how well they will work together for your child. It's also good to choose a backup in case your first choice of guardian or guardians isn't possible.



# Where to start and how to choose

Start by making a shortlist of possible candidates and be really honest about their pros and cons next to things such as:



## Values and beliefs

Think about the kind of person you want your child to be when they grow up. Who's got the character and qualities to get them there? Are the potential guardian's morals, views, and beliefs close to your own?



## Parenting skills

How would they approach things such as child discipline, activities and education?



## Finances and work commitments

Are they financially savvy? Do they have a stable job with not too much travel?



## Age and health

Are they young enough to keep up with a toddler or cope with a teenager? Are they old enough to be settled and make sound decisions?



## Location

Can they be there for your child? Are they close enough to be involved? Can your child be relocated if need be?



## Existing family circumstances

How stable is their family situation? How would your child fit in?

# For consideration

Make your decision on what's best for your child.

- Don't just choose someone that you think you have to choose
- Don't just choose someone who thinks it is their right
- Choose someone who meets your criteria and will relish the role.

# Once you've decided

Discuss your decision with the person in detail.

Be open about:

- The financial support that your estate can provide
- Your expectations of the role.

## Talk to Public Trust

Now is a good time to be thinking about choosing a guardian for your child. Talk to us. We can give advice specific to your situation.

Make an appointment with a Public Trust specialist by calling **0800 371 471**.



# Choosing your child's guardian.

Choosing a guardian for your child is tough to think about, but it's really important to do.

This worksheet can help get you started with thinking about the best choice for your child.

In the spaces below, write the name of a person or people you believe could be a good option for your child, for example, Mary or Tau and Susan.

Think about each question carefully, and try to be as precise as you can when considering what you're looking for.

Write some notes in the spaces provided, and give each option a rating of up to three pluses   .

Once you've completed the worksheet, add up the pluses for each option to see which is best.

## Names of potential guardians:

Guardian 1 (G1)	
Guardian 2 (G2)	
Guardian 3 (G3)	



### Values and beliefs

What are your values and beliefs? Make a list.  
Do you want these for your child as well?  
Whose values and beliefs are closest to these?

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+ ratings:

G1    G2    G3



### Parenting skills

What does good parenting look like to you?  
Describe it. Who would take this approach?  
Do they share the same attitude to child discipline, education and growth opportunities?

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+ ratings:

G1    G2    G3



## Finances and work commitments

Children need time and financial support. How financially stable are your child's potential guardians? Do they make good financial decisions? Do they have a good work-life balance?

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+ ratings:

G1  G2  G3



## Age and health

Are the potential guardians mentally and physically able to look after your child? Do they look after their own health?

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+ ratings:

G1  G2  G3



## Location

Where do they live? Is it close to other important people in your child's life? Does this matter?

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+ ratings:

G1  G2  G3



## Existing family circumstances

Does the person have children of their own or will they? Would your child fit in with their family?

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+ ratings:

G1  G2  G3

## Total - add up the '+'s

<b>G1</b>		<b>G2</b>		<b>G3</b>	
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## Other thoughts

Now that you've thought about potential guardians, use this space to write anything else that's important to you in a guardian.

## Talk to Public Trust

Bring this form to your appointment with us. We can answer any questions you may have. Make an appointment by calling **0800 371 471**.

