

ESTATE PLANNING

Guidelines for Guardians

What should I consider when appointing a guardian in my Will?

Have you ever considered what would happen if you, as parents, were not there to make all the important decisions about your children's welfare, upbringing and lifestyle? One of the most important decisions you will make as part of your estate planning is deciding who should be appointed as the guardian of your infant children.

However, is the appointment of a guardian enough? Would your children's guardian(s) know what you wanted for them?

What else can I do?

In addition to appointing guardians in your Will, you can also make a record of your wishes in a document called "Guidelines regarding the future care of our children". By preparing a set of guidelines or instructions, you can ensure that those who have responsibility for the care and nurturing of your children will know what you want for your children, if you are not there for them yourself.

What instructions can be included in the Guideline document?

The guideline document can address any important matter or issue that may arise in relation to the future care of your children. For example:

- Education
- Health
- Religion
- Where and with whom the children should reside
- Who should be involved in the children's upbringing
- General development – sports, hobbies and personal interests
- Part time employment

Why should I leave a set of guidelines?

It can provide guidance and comfort where one parent is left alone to raise the children, ensuring that they would not feel alone when making important decisions about the children's upbringing and their future.

Further, in the event of the death of both parents, the guidelines would be of vital importance to your appointed guardians and will give you peace of mind knowing that you have done everything possible to ensure your children will be raised in the way you intend.

What should I do next?

As part of your estate planning with Bell Legal Group, we will provide you with a complimentary checklist covering the key items that you may wish to consider. We can also help with the preparation or review of your guideline documents.

If you would like more information, please feel free to contact a member of our Estate Planning and Asset Protection Team on (07) 5597 3366 or at law@belllegal.com.au.

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