

## GUARDIANSHIP OF MINORS

### NOTICE TO PRO SE GUARDIANSHIP PETITIONERS

Citizens of Oklahoma are not required to be represented by an attorney to file a petition for, and to be appointed as, a guardian of a minor child. However, please be advised that the Court will require you to meet the same standards of compliance with the laws and rules of procedure as are required of attorneys. As a petitioner for guardian you are seeking to assume authority to manage and control another person's rights and the Court will require full compliance with those laws and rules. The Court, its staff and the Court Clerk's office personnel cannot, and will not, provide you with legal advice nor assist you in the performance of the requirements imposed by law, including the preparation of the forms.

The Petition and Affidavits provided in this packet of forms must be completed by you and filed with the Court Clerk's office. After you file the Petition and Affidavits you will receive a case number and a judge will be assigned to the case. Take file-stamped copies of your Petition and the Affidavits and all other forms to the assigned judge. The judge will assign a hearing date and time to be included in the "Order for Hearing" and the "Notice of Petition" which must then be returned to the Court Clerk's office. You will then need to request the Court Clerk to mail copies of the notice and petition to all persons entitled to receive notice. **Notice must be mailed at least ten (10) days before the hearing date.** Those entitled to receive notice are defined in Title 30 O.S. § 2-101 or as required by the Court.

If you are in need of legal assistance and cannot afford an attorney you should contact any attorney you know who may be willing to assist without fee or with a reduced fee. You may also contact Legal Aid of Western Oklahoma.

If you have substantial reason to believe that the minor is in need of an immediate appointment of a guardian for his/her protection you should advise the assigned judge's Bailiff of that fact.

If you have substantial reason to believe that a minor child is subject to abuse or neglect you are required by law to report such information to the Oklahoma Department of Human Services.