



PROTECTING YOUR CHILDREN STARTS HERE

3 Situations every parent should plan for before the unexpected happens

A practical guide to help you protect your children, name the right people, and create peace of mind for your family.

A NOTE FROM CHRISTIE

Hi I'm Christie.

I'm so glad you're here!

As both an estate planning attorney and a mom, I know there's nothing more important than protecting the people you love.

None of us likes to think about the unexpected. But the truth is, life can change in an instant. Having a plan in place today means that, no matter what tomorrow brings, the people you trust will know exactly how to care for your children and honor your wishes.

Too often, I meet families who believe that simply naming guardians in a will is enough. While that's an important first step, there are situations where your children could still face unnecessary uncertainty if you don't have the right protections in place.

That's why this guide is so useful. Inside, you'll learn three important situations where a Kids CARE Plan can make all the difference for your family.

You don't have to figure this all out on your own. Whether you're just getting started or reviewing an existing plan, I'm here to help you protect what matters most.

With care,

Christie McDonnell



Before we begin...

If you're a parent, you've probably already thought about one important question: *Who would care for my children if something happened to me?*

Maybe you've already named permanent legal guardians. Or maybe it's something you've been meaning to do but just haven't gotten around to yet.

If you haven't taken that first step, let this be your reminder.

Naming legal guardians is one of the most loving decisions you can make for your children, and it's something every parent should have in place.

Ask yourself...

- ♡ Have I legally named guardians for my children?
- ♡ Would those guardians know exactly what to do if something happened today?
- ♡ Do I ever leave my children with a babysitter, nanny, coach, or family friend?
- ♡ Is there someone I would *never* want making decisions about my children?
- ♡ Have I shared my wishes for my children's education, healthcare, and financial future?

If you answered **"No"** or **"I'm not sure"** to any of these questions, **this guide is for you.**

SCENARIO 1

You leave your children in the care of non-related caregivers and the unexpected happens

Even after you've named legal guardians, there are still situations many parents don't think about. One of the biggest is what happens if an emergency occurs while your children are with someone the authorities would not naturally leave your kids with if something happens to you.

Your kids are home with the babysitter. You don't make it home, and the authorities are called. The authorities show up at your house, and what would they do?

Would they leave your children at home with the person taking care of them while they attempt to find your Will or legal guardian nomination? Would they even be able to find your legal documents? Would your legal documents name someone who would be *immediately* available to come to stay with your children, and would the authorities leave your children with them without a court order?

If not, you need a Kids CARE Plan to fill in the gap.

Permanent guardian nominations only take effect upon your passing and are made official through the court system. *This means that they do not give any legal authority to your chosen guardians in an emergency or if you become incapacitated.*

Because of this, law enforcement could place your child into protective custody with social services in the event of your sudden absence or incapacity due to an illness or injury. To minimize the chances that would happen, we can name legal guardians for the short-term, and give those named guardians the legal documentation they would need and instructions on what to do immediately if something happens to you.

Peace of mind tip

A Kids CARE Plan includes **short-term guardian nominations and instructions** that help ensure your children can remain in the care of trusted adults if the unexpected happens. In addition, we will give you the tools to ensure that anyone staying with your children while you aren't there knows exactly what to do if something happens to you.

SCENARIO 2

You Have Someone In Your Life You Would NEVER Want Raising Your Kids

Most parents have someone they immediately think of when choosing who they would trust to raise their children. But, is there someone you would never want making those decisions?

While this may not apply to you, if it does, you absolutely, 100%, without question need to contact us STAT. We can ensure that person is confidentially excluded from your plan using a Kids CARE Plan. And, we can structure it so that this confidential document is only brought forward if necessary to keep your children out of the care of the person you would never want to raise them.

That can lead to uncertainty, disagreements among family members, and decisions that don't reflect your values or your family's unique circumstances.

Peace of Mind Tip

Choosing the right guardian isn't about finding someone who's perfect. It's about choosing someone who shares your values, understands your wishes, and will love and care for your children the way you would want them to.

SCENARIO 3

You Have Unique Desires For Your Kids' Education, Health Care or Financial Well-Being

You've probably given a lot of thought to how you want to educate your children, the kinds of healthcare decisions you make for them, and how you want them to experience reality from a financial perspective. If that's the case, then you absolutely want to ensure that anyone raising your children, if you can't, will know how you would have wanted these decisions to be made.

Otherwise, if you don't take the time to leave instructions to the people who could raise your children, they will not know how you would make decisions if you cannot be there to communicate your hopes, dreams, wishes, and desires.

And, here's the great thing about this... there's a 99% chance that you are not going to become incapacitated or die while your children are minors (phew), and yet taking the time to write down your unique desires for their well-being and care is an illuminating process in and of itself that will make you a better parent right now.

We hear it again and again from our clients that when they create their Kids CARE Plan with us, they immediately feel a great deal of relief and a belief that they are being the best parents they can possibly be. They have more clarity about what's really important to them, what they want to emphasize, who they want their children to develop relationships with, and where they can better focus their own time, energy, and attention.

If you aren't sure where to start when creating these instructions, don't worry. We will support you with the whole process when we create your Kids CARE Plan.

NEXT STEPS

Let's protect what matters most.

You've taken an important first step by learning about the questions every parent should consider when creating a plan for their family. Now, let's turn that into a plan that gives you confidence, so the people you love are protected, no matter what life brings. We start with a **Discovery Call**.

What happens during a Discovery Call?

This call is with our Rockstar Lindsay Pitcher who kicks off our efficient consult process. She is my right hand and helps clients feel informed, supported, and confident from start to finish.

This 15-minute discovery call is designed to be straightforward and focused on you. We'll discuss what brings you here and your concerns. We will answer any initial questions and explore the next best step to help you protect the people and things that matter most to you.

Schedule a Discovery Call today and let's create a plan that protects your children, your values, and your peace of mind.

[*Click here to schedule your Discovery Call*](#)