



Common Legal Terms Defined

Consent Forms - a form that a parent signs if they believe/agree that the kinship guardianship should be in place

Contest - disagree with

Filing Fee - a fee required by the district court when someone submits documents into a case

Free Process - we can ask the court to waive or reduce the filing fee and the fee associated with opening a new case; most Pegasus clients are income eligible for this process

Guardian ad Litem (GAL) - an attorney for the child(ren) who acts in the child(ren)'s best interest and makes recommendations to the court about the child(ren); The Guardian ad Litem often conducts interviews and observations to make their recommendations

Hearing - a formal meeting with the judge in a courtroom, where all people involved in the case state their position and the judge makes a decision on what should happen

Intake - a meeting scheduled with an attorney, where the client shares their story and the attorney and client decide whether to work together on filing a case

Kinship Guardian - a person, other than a parent, who is given legal authority by a Judge to step into the role of the parent

Kinship Guardianship - a legal process that establishes a legally recognized relationship between a child and their caretaker

Motion for Temporary Kinship Guardianship - a document that asks the court to make someone kinship guardian temporarily until the Judge can make a final decision on the Petition for Kinship Guardianship

Nomination - a document signed by a child age 14 or older, which confirms that the child wants the Petitioner to be his/her kinship guardian; a child 14 or older must agree to the kinship guardianship before a court will grant the kinship guardianship

Order Appointing Temporary Kinship Guardianship - a document from the court that establishes a legal relationship between a child and their caretaker for up to 180 days

Party/Parties - the Petitioner(s) and the Respondent(s), usually the potential guardian(s) and the parent(s)

Petitioner - you, the person who is asking the court for kinship guardianship

Petition for Kinship Guardianship - the primary document in a kinship guardianship case; this document lays out the facts and tells the judge why we think kinship guardianship is necessary