

## DO YOU HAVE CHILDREN?

### Standby Guardianship

A Standby Guardian Designation is a formal way to give a trusted adult the legal power to care for your child if you cannot. It gives this person authority that an informal arrangement does not. For example, if your neighbor agrees to care for your child, but is not a standby guardian, she will not be able to make some educational or health care decisions for your child.

A Standby Guardian Designation:

1. Lasts until you can care for your child again, or for one year, whichever is less.
2. Lasts one year from the time it goes into effect (when the written statement at the end of the document is signed by the designated guardian), not the date you sign the forms
3. Can end by you at any time
4. Can be filled out anywhere
5. It does NOT need to be notarized, but it does need to be signed **by two witnesses**.

What you need to fill out the STANBY GUARDIANSHIP Form:

1. Have a designated Standby Guardian. Talk to him/her and explain. Ideally, someone with a legal status in the US with a Social Security number
2. If both parents are alive, both must sign the designation of standby guardian
3. Have a copy of your ID and your children's birth certificate for identification purposes when signing
4. The form must be signed by two witnesses
5. Give a completed copy of the Standby Guardian Designation to:
  - a. The designated standby guardian
  - b. Your child's school and health care provider
6. Keep the original document and store it in a secure place.