**How to Change Who Your Guardians Are or How to End Your Guardianship**

In Colorado, **you have a right to a lawyer to help you change your guardians or end your guardianship**. Below is a flow chart that moves through the legal process of how you can access your right to a lawyer.

STEP 1: Submit Legal Documents to the Court

* Go to the next page for a checklist of the legal documents.

STEP 2: Hearing on Giving Informed Consent

* Before you can get a lawyer, the judge must make sure that you can give your informed consent to become a lawyer’s client.

If the court decides:

*Yes, You* ***Can*** *Give Informed Consent*

If the court decides:

*No, You* ***Cannot*** *Give Informed Consent*

STEP 3: You Can Get a Lawyer

* If you get Supplemental Security Income (“SSI”) or Medicaid, the court will pay for your lawyer.
* If you do not get SSI or Medicaid, you will probably have to pay for the lawyer yourself.

STEP 3: You Can Ask the Court to Give You a Guardian Ad Litem (“GAL”) Instead

* The GAL can help you file an appeal to get a lawyer.
* The GAL can also talk to you about why you want to change your guardians or end your guardianship. The GAL will then share that information with the judge.

Sources: Colo. Rev. Stat. § 15-14-319(1) (West 2022) (effective Aug. 10, 2016); *Milstein v. Ayers*, 955 P.2d 78, 80-81 (Colo. App. 1998).

**Checklist of legal documents that must be submitted to the court for STEP 1:**

* Motion: A Motion is a legal document that asks the court to do something. You can submit a Motion without a lawyer. Disability Law Colorado has example Motions that you can fill in and submit to the court.
	+ Example Motion for Changing Who Your Guardians Are: [(link)](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fdisabilitylawco.org%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2Fuploads%2FTemplate%2520Motion_Guardianship%2520Modification.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK)
	+ Example Motion for Ending Your Guardianship: [(link)](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fdisabilitylawco.org%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2Fuploads%2FTemplate%2520Motion_Guardianship%2520Termination.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK)
* JDF 205, Motion to Waive Fees: <https://www.coloradojudicial.gov/sites/default/files/2024-05/JDF205.pdf>
	+ Fill in as much information as you can.
	+ This form is also available in Spanish, Arabic, Burmese, Chinese, Chukeese, French, Korean, Nepali, Russian, Somali, and Vietnamese on the Colorado Judicial Branch’s website: <https://www.coloradojudicial.gov/self-help-forms>.
* JDF 208, Application for a State Paid Professional: <https://www.coloradojudicial.gov/sites/default/files/2023-07/JDF208.pdf>.
	+ Select the “Lawyer” and “Guardian ad litem” checkboxes.
	+ Then fill in as much information as you can.
	+ This form is also available in Spanish, Arabic, Burmese, Chinese, Chukeese, French, Korean, Nepali, Russian, Somali, and Vietnamese on the Colorado Judicial Branch’s website: <https://www.coloradojudicial.gov/self-help-forms>.
* JDF 210 CJD, Order Appointing Counsel, Guardian Ad Litem, or Court Visitor Under Titles 15, 25.5 or 27, C.R.S.: <https://www.coloradojudicial.gov/sites/default/files/2023-08/JDF210CJD.pdf>.
	+ For question 1, write in your name under the checkbox “motion of” and then write in your name, address, and phone number under the checkbox “adult.”
	+ For question 2, select the “Other” checkbox and write in, “section 15-14-319, C.R.S.”
	+ You do not need to select a checkbox for question 3.
	+ For question 4, select the “Other” checkbox and write in, “Please see JDF 205.”
* JDF 717, Certificate of Service: <https://www.coloradojudicial.gov/sites/default/files/2024-06/JDF717.pdf>.
	+ You must mail a signed copy of the Motion (first document in this checklist) and a signed copy of JDF 717 to the following people:
		- Your parents
		- Your current guardian(s)
		- Your current doctor
		- Your host home provider(s) – if you have host home provider(s)
* JDF 841 SC, Petition for Appointment of Guardian for Adult: <https://www.coloradojudicial.gov/sites/default/files/2024-04/JDF841.pdf>.
	+ Even though you already have a guardian, you still have to complete this form.
	+ Fill in this form as best as you can. It is okay if you leave some sections blank.
* JDF 848, Order Appointing Guardian for Adult: <https://www.coloradojudicial.gov/sites/default/files/2023-07/JDF848.pdf>.
	+ Only fill in the top part of the form. Under “In the Interest of” section, write your name. Then write in the court and your guardianship case number.
* JDF 849, Letters of Guardianship – Adult: <https://www.coloradojudicial.gov/sites/default/files/2024-04/JDF849.pdf>.
	+ Only fill in the top part of the form. Under “In the Interest of” section, write your name. Then write in the court and your guardianship case number.

**Support for Completing this Checklist**

Colorado Judicial Districts’ Self-Help Centers:

Every court has a self-help center for people who do not have lawyers. You can contact your court’s self-help center and ask questions about the JDF forms. You can also ask the self-help center for your guardianship case number. Here is the list of self-help centers: <https://www.coloradojudicial.gov/sites/default/files/2024-07/Sherlock_Contact_List_for_Public.pdf>.

Colorado Judicial Districts’ ADA Coordinators:

Every court also has an ADA coordinator who you can ask for reasonable accommodations for completing these forms. Here is the list of ADA coordinators: <https://www.coloradojudicial.gov/ada-coordinators>.

If your court’s self-help center or ADA coordinator will not help you, contact Disability Law Colorado at 303-722-0300. We might be able to support you in completing these forms, and we want to track which courts are not providing support.