

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF _____ COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - PROBATE DIVISION**

Estate of
CHILD NAME,
A Minor,

CASE NO:

**PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN OF MINOR AND MOTION FOR
SPECIAL FINDINGS**

Petitioner, NAME, states under penalties of perjury:

1. NAME, (“the Minor”) whose date of birth is DATE, and whose place of residence is ADDRESS, is a minor.
2. The Minor has no real estate, personal estate or anticipated gross annual income or other
3. receipts.
4. The person having physical custody of the Minor is the Petitioner, NAME, who is related to the Minor as her sister. The Minor has resided with the Petitioner at her home since DATE when the Minor arrived in the United States.
5. The names and addresses of the adult relatives of the Minor entitled to notice of these proceedings are set forth in Exhibit A of this Petition.
6. The Minor was born in COUNTRY. When the Minor was a year old, her father left her and her family for the United States. She has not seen her father since then. Her father has never provided meaningful financial support to the Minor, nor did he provide protection for the Minor even in times of great hardship in COUNTRY. Recognizing that it is the best interest

for the Minor to be under Petitioner's care, the Minor's father has consented to Petitioner's request for guardianship of the Minor. [Exhibit __, Appearance & Consent].

7. The Minor's mother also left the Minor and Petitioner in COUNTRY when the Minor left to live in the United States. Their parents eventually separated. The Minor's mother has consented to Petitioner's request for guardianship of the Minor. [Exhibit __, Appearance & Consent]
8. Petitioner and the Minor received threats from gang members and their affiliates while living in COUNTRY. Petitioner fled to the United States in 2016, and the Minor followed in 2019.
9. Shortly after, Petitioner took custody of the Minor Child and has been caring for her since then.
10. It is necessary that a guardian of the Minor be appointed because she is still a minor child and must have a guardian for school and health purposes. She is also in need of a guardian due to her abandonment by her father, and the inability of her mother to care for her.
11. The Minor's reunification with her father is not viable due his abandonment of her within the meaning of 755 ILCS 5/11-5.5(a). Specifically, the Minor's father left her when she was a year old, has not seen her since then, and has not offered any meaningful financial support or protection.
12. It would not be in the Minor's interests to return to COUNTRY, since there is no one there who can care for her and keep her safe. She would likely fall victim to additional abuse by the gangs and she would not have access to the medical care and education offered in the United States.

13. It is in the best interests of the Minor that the Petitioner be appointed as guardian of her person. The Petitioner is willing to continue caring for the Minor, and to continue providing her with a place to live, clothes to wear, food to eat, and a sense of home.
14. The Minor is not involved in any other child custody proceeding pending before this or any other court or administrative body of Illinois or any other state, a Native American tribe, or a foreign country.
15. Petitioner asks that this Court appoint her as the Minor's guardian of her person and find that the Petitioner is qualified and willing to act in this capacity on the Minor's behalf.
16. Petitioner affirms and states that she has personal knowledge of the matters alleged in this Petition, except where information was obtained from sources other than the Petitioner and the Minor child, and in all cases, reasonable efforts were made to obtain all information relevant to the matters verified within.

Wherefore, the Petitioner respectfully requests that this Honorable Court enter an Order appointing the Petitioner as the Guardian of the person of the Minor, and making the following special findings:

- A. That the Minor's reunification with her father is not viable due to his abandonment pursuant to 755 ILCS 5/11-5.5, as described in more detail above;
- B. That it would not be in the Minor child's best interests to return to COUNTRY, as there is no one there who is able and willing to bear the duties and responsibilities of being her parent or guardian and she left the country in the wake of serious gang threats; and
- C. Granting her any other relief as this Court deems appropriate.

Respectfully Submitted,

Petitioner

Attorney

CERTIFICATION

Under penalties as provided by law pursuant to Section 1-109 of the Illinois Code of Civil Procedure, the undersigned certifies that the statements set forth in this instrument are true and correct, except as to matters therein stated to be on information and belief and as to such matters the undersigned certifies as aforesaid that s/he verily believes the same to be true.

NAME, Petitioner

NOMINATION

I, _____, a minor over 14 years of age, nominate
_____ as guardian of my person.

NAME, Minor

Date

ATTORNEY
ATTORNEY NUMBER
ADDRESS BLOCK