



The Law Office of
David W. Adams, LLC

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PREPARE NOW! Your complete source for information about estate planning for your family

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PLANNING FOR THE UNEXPECTED: PROTECTING YOUR CHILD THROUGH EMERGENCY GUARDIANSHIP

Everyday we hear about unexpected events. Our neighbor may have a car accident, a close friend may be diagnosed with cancer, and some days we get really sad news that someone passed away. If the unexpected happened in your family, who would care for your children? Would that person be able to take your child to school and doctor's appointments? If you have executed a Massachusetts Emergency Guardianship Proxy, the answer is yes. Pursuant to Massachusetts General Law c. 201 § 2G, a parent may appoint a temporary guardian for her child. The guardianship will only take effect upon the death, incapacity or permission of the parent.

This document allows you to take control of who will be watching your child in case an emergency happens, such as a car accident or sudden illness. Most importantly, by executing a proxy someone you DO NOT want to care for your child will have no opportunity to do so. As a parent, you can ensure, for example, that your specific religious beliefs are observed with your child or that your child's life will not be interrupted by having to live in a different school district. However this is only if you make a choice. If you do not appoint someone, the decision is left to friends, family or maybe the State.

These problems can be addressed by executing a simple form. With an Emergency Guardianship Proxy executed, you do not have to worry about someone having to go to court to obtain guardianship, fighting between family members or whether your child's immediate needs are met. Since nothing in life is certain, all parents of minor children should consider formalizing their choices for their children's guardianship. If guardianship is needed, you will be prepared!

For more information on this or other estate planning topics, please visit us at www.dwa-law.com.

Upcoming Workshop: Essential Estate Planning Tools to Protect Your Family

On Saturday, March 25, 2005, from 10 am to 11 am, there will be a free workshop entitled "Essential Estate Planning Tools to Protect Your Family" hosted by The Law Office of David W. Adams, LLC at 420 Bedford Street, Suite 130, Lexington, MA. We will help you learn the tools necessary to ensure that the caretaker of your choice will be the guardian for your child and how to ensure your child will have enough funds to survive while you are recovering from incapacitation or your will is being probated. Enrollment is limited. Please RSVP to Angela at (800) 920-6658 extension 82.

Resources on Guardianship

Please visit our website at <http://www.dwa-law.com/estate/resources/index.htm> for the following resources on guardianship: **"Top Ten Questions to Consider When Choosing a Guardian for your Child"** and **"Next Steps: What to do Once You Have Chosen a Guardian for your Child"**.

Legal Disclaimer

The Law Office of David W. Adams, LLC, provides this free monthly e-letter as an educational service for friends and clients. We welcome your questions and comments at (800) 920-6658. This e-letter is for informational purposes only and does not represent our legal advice regarding any specific set of facts, nor does this e-letter represent any undertaking to keep recipients advised as to all legal developments.

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