

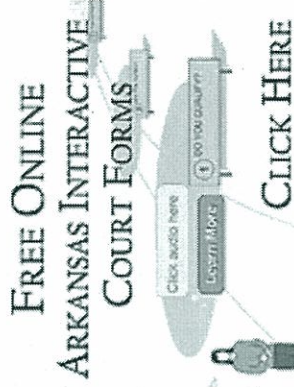
Uncontested Guardianship of a Minor

The Arkansas Legal Services Partnership and the Access to Justice Commission have launched the Guardianship of a Minor Interactive Form Packet. This interactive form allows low-income Arkansans to file an uncontested guardianship of a minor if the minor has an income of \$1,000 or less.

This online resource is free and is available at the ALSP website: www.arlegalservices.org/minorguardianship.

The packet includes:

1. A Circuit Court Probate Cover Sheet
2. A Petition for Guardianship of the Person Form
3. A Notice of Hearing and Rights
4. Consent, Waiver of Notice, and Entry of Appearance
5. Order Appointing Guardian of the Person
6. Acceptance of Appointment as Guardian of the Person
7. Letters of Guardianship
8. Sample – Annual Report by Guardian
9. A Guardianship Petition Checklist and Instructions



The guardianship packet was produced by a collaboration of AARP Arkansas, the Arkansas Access to Justice Commission, the Arkansas Administrative Office of the Courts, the Arkansas Department of Human Services Division of Aging and Adult Services, Arkansas Voices for the Children Left Behind, Arkansas Legal Services Partnership, Center for Arkansas Legal Services, and Legal Aid of Arkansas.

Kinship

- In the state of Arkansas, there are over 60,000 children living with relative-headed households, 50,000 of which are living with grandparents
- Approximately, 33,618 grandparents were responsible for the grandchildren living with them in 2007 (AARP, 2007)

Best Program Model for Arkansas

Three phase implementation model

1. Navigator Services
2. Limited Kinship Subsidy
3. Extended Kinship Subsidy

Estimated Cost of the Program

- Year #1 is estimated to be approximately, \$250,000
- Year #2 and #3 are estimated at \$1.5 million (\$200 per child per month for 500 children)
- Year #4 is estimated at \$2.1 million (\$200 per month for 750 children)
- Year #5 is estimated \$2.8 million (\$200 per month for 1,000 children)

Findings

- Currently, the TANF budget and reserve fund (carry forward fund) does not allow for a new program to be funded and **SUSTAINED**.
- However, alternative funding streams are available, specifically the new Title IV-E waivers