

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

Estate of

NAME,

A Minor,

2020 P 12345

PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN OF MINOR

Petitioner, NAME, states under penalties of perjury:

1. NAME, (“the Minor”) whose date of birth is DATE, and whose place of residence is ADDRESS, Chicago, Cook County, Illinois, is a minor.
2. The Minor has no real estate, personal estate or anticipated gross annual income or other receipts.
3. The person having physical custody of the Minor is 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 Cook County, Illinois after fleeing COUNTRY.
4. 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.
5. 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].

6. 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]
7. 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.
8. Shortly after, Petitioner took custody of the Minor Child and has been caring for her since then.
9. 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.
10. The Minor has had a number of health issues, including heart problems. Under Petitioner's care in the U.S., the Minor has been able to receive the medical attention she needs. However, Petitioner's status as her sister and not legal guardian has made assisting the Minor with her medical issues difficult. In the event of an emergency situation, Petitioner needs the authority to care for the Minor that guardianship can offer.
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), and general unwillingness to care for her. 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.
24. The Minor is completely reliant on the Petitioner for her care, safety and well-being.
25. 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.
26. 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.
27. 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.
28. 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, Petitioner, NAME, respectfully requests that this Honorable Court enter an Order:

- A. Granting the Petition for Guardian of Minor;
- B. Appointing the Petitioner as the Guardian of the person of the Minor;
- C. Finding that the Minor child's father abandoned her within the meaning of 755 ILCS 5/11-5.5, and that reunification with her father is not viable due to his abandonment.

- D. Finding 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
- E. Granting her any other relief as this Court deems appropriate

Respectfully Submitted,

NAME, Petitioner

ATTORNEY NAME, her 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