

Chart 7: Appointment Laws in Adoption, Guardianship, Unmarried Parent and Divorce Cases*

STATE	Adoption	Guardianship	Unmarried Parent	Divorce: Role, When, Who
Alabama	Req'd if contested	Discretionary	Req'd if minor is a party	GAL - Discretionary - Att'y
Alaska	Discretionary	Discretionary	No statute	Att'y or GAL - Discretionary - Att'y/Gov't Att'y
Arizona	Discretionary	Discretionary; Req'd if to terminate guardianship	No statute	Att'y - Discretionary - Att'y
Arkansas	Discretionary	Discretionary	No statute	Att'y - Discretionary - Att'y
California	Discretionary	Req'd if abuse or neglect	Req'd if minor is a party	Hybrid - Discretionary - Att'y/Gov't Att'y
Colorado	Discretionary	Discretionary	Discretionary	Att'y or GAL - Discretionary - GAL - Att'y/Other Prof.
Connecticut	Discretionary	Req'd if abuse or neglect	Req'd if minor is a party	Att'y or GAL - Discretionary - GAL - Att'y/Other Prof.
Delaware	Discretionary	Required	Discretionary	Att'y or GAL - Discretionary - GAL - Att'y/Other Prof.
District of Columbia	Discretionary	Discretionary	No statute	GAL - Discretionary - Att'y
Florida	Discretionary	Discretionary	Discretionary	Att'y or GAL req'd if abuse involved - GAL - Att'y/Certified Citizen
Georgia	Discretionary	Discretionary	Discretionary	GAL - Discretionary - Att'y
Hawaii	Discretionary	Discretionary	Req'd if minor is a party	GAL - Discretionary - Att'y/Gov't Att'y/Professional
Idaho	No statute	Required	No statute	Att'y - Discretionary - Att'y
Illinois	Required	Discretionary	Discretionary	Att'y - Hybrid or GAL - Discretionary - Att'y/Gov't Att'y
Indiana	Discretionary	Discretionary	Req'd if minor is a party	GAL - Discretionary - Att'y/CASA trained
Iowa	Discretionary	Discretionary	Discretionary	Att'y or GAL - Discretionary - Att'y
Kansas	Discretionary	Required	Req'd if minor is a party	GAL - Discretionary - Att'y/Other Professional
Kentucky	Req'd if contested	Required	Req'd if minor is a party	GAL - Discretionary - Att'y
Louisiana	Discretionary	Discretionary	No statute	Att'y - Req'd if abuse involved - Att'y
Maine	Discretionary	Discretionary	No statute	GAL - Discretionary - Att'y/Other Professional
Maryland	Req'd if minor over 10	Required	Required	GAL - Discretionary - Att'y
Massachusetts	Req'd if contested	Discretionary	Discretionary	Att'y or GAL - Discretionary - Att'y/Disinterested Person
Michigan	Discretionary	Discretionary	Discretionary	Hybrid - Discretionary - Att'y
Minnesota	Discretionary	Discretionary	Discretionary	GAL - Req'd if abuse involved - Att'y/Professional
Mississippi	Req'd if contested	Discretionary	Discretionary	GAL - Req'd if abuse involved - Att'y/Professional
Missouri	Required	Discretionary	Required	GAL - Req'd if abuse - Att'y
Montana	Discretionary	Discretionary	Required	GAL - Discretionary - Att'y
Nebraska	Discretionary	Discretionary	Required	Att'y or GAL - Discretionary - Att'y
Nevada	No statute	Discretionary	Required	GAL - Discretionary - Att'y/Other Professional
New Hampshire	Discretionary	Discretionary	Discretionary	GAL - Discretionary - Att'y/Other Professional
New Jersey	Req'd if minor was removed from home	Discretionary	Discretionary	Att'y or GAL - Discretionary - GAL - Att'y/Other Prof.
New Mexico	Req'd if contested	Discretionary	Req'd if minor is a party	GAL - Discretionary - Att'y
New York	Required	Required	Required	Att'y or GAL - Discretionary - Att'y/Gov't Att'y
North Carolina	Discretionary	Discretionary	Required	GAL - Discretionary - Does not specify
North Dakota	Required	Discretionary	Required	GAL - Discretionary - Att'y
Ohio	Discretionary	Discretionary	Requires party's request	Att'y or GAL - Discretionary - GAL - Att'y/Other Prof.
Oklahoma	Req'd if contested	Discretionary	No statute	GAL - Discretionary - Att'y
Oregon	No statute	No statute	No statute	Att'y - Req'd if a minor requests - Att'y
Pennsylvania	Req'd if contested	Discretionary	No statute	Att'y or Hybrid - Discretionary - Att'y
Rhode Island	Discretionary	Discretionary	Discretionary	Att'y or GAL - Discretionary - Does not specify
South Carolina	Required	Discretionary	Req'd if action seeks to legitimize minor	GAL - Discretionary - Att'y/Other
South Dakota	No statute	Discretionary	No statute	Att'y - Discretionary - Att'y
Tennessee	Discretionary	Required	Discretionary	Att'y or GAL - Discretionary - Does not specify
Texas	Discretionary	Discretionary	Discretionary	Att'y or GAL or Att'y <i>ad Litem</i> - Req'd if in best interest - GAL can be Att'y/Adut
Utah	Discretionary	Discretionary	Req'd if minor is a party	Att'y or GAL - Discretionary - GAL - Att'y/Gov't Att'y
Vermont	Req'd if contested	Discretionary	Req'd if minor is a party	Att'y req'd if minor is a witness - GAL is discretionary - Att'y
Virginia	Required	Required	Req'd if minor is a party	Att'y or GAL - Req'd if abuse involved - Att'y
Washington	Discretionary	Discretionary	Discretionary	GAL - Discretionary - Att'y/Other
West Virginia	Discretionary	Discretionary	Req'd if father brings action	Att'y or GAL - Req'd if abuse involved - GAL - does not specify
Wisconsin	Req'd if contested	Discretionary	Required	GAL - Req'd if contested - Att'y
Wyoming	Discretionary	Discretionary	Req'd if minor is a party	Hybrid - Req'd if abuse involved - Att'y

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