



Revised: 4-25-16

Survey Questions for State Guardianship Experts¹

Please note that text in brackets [] are instructions for the interviewer.

[Say: *Have you read the study overview and the consent? Do you have any questions about the study or consent?*]

Casey Family Programs and Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago are inviting you to take part in a survey to examine how subsidized guardianship is being used across the United States. You are being invited to participate in this survey because you were identified as a state expert in child welfare guardianship and kinship care policies.

This survey will supplement a national review of state subsidized guardianship legal statutes and administrative codes. Findings from this survey will be shared with Chapin Hall who will use this information to conduct an analysis of state guardianship policies regarding time to permanency and other outcomes for children in the foster care system. These findings will be summarized in a report and possible journal article.

Your responses will be combined with those of other child welfare professionals. Your name and position will not be identified in any public reports as the information will be summarized at the state level.

The survey should take 45 minutes to one hour. There are no known risks related to your participation, which is completely voluntary. You can change your mind at any time and decide not to participate. You can choose not to answer any question that makes you uncomfortable. Whether or not you choose to participate will not impact your status or relationship with any of the organizations partnering on this effort.

¹ This effort is part of collaboration between Casey Family Programs and Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago to examine the effects of different state policies and other supports on guardianship outcomes. Special thanks to American Bar Association, Children's Defense Fund, and Generations United for their advice in constructing this survey. For more information please contact ResearchTeam@casey.org at Casey Family Programs or Dana Weiner (dweiner@chapinhall.org) at Chapin Hall.

Please confirm the following information:

Name: _____

State: _____

Position Title: _____

Number of Years in this Position: _____

Funding

How is subsidized guardianship funded within your state (please check all that apply and include the percent (%) of total funding coming from each source.)

_____ % Federal Title IV-E funds _____ % TANF _____ % Child Only Grant

_____ % State funds

Does your state receive incentive funds from the federal government for increasing the rate of subsidized guardianships? Yes No

If your subsidized guardianship program is funded under Title IV-E, what is your current matching rate? (In other words, at what percentage are your subsidized guardianship expenses reimbursed by the feds?)

What is the monthly subsidy for subsidized guardians in your state (dollar amount)?

What is the monthly subsidy for adoption (dollar amount)?

What is the monthly subsidy for foster care (dollar amount)?

Implementation

[Ask Question 1, 1a, and 1b only if a state indicates they use Federal Title IV-E funds for subsidized guardianship.]

- 1) In what year was your state's Title IV-E guardianship assistance program fully implemented? Full implementation occurs when child welfare staff and judges are aware of a subsidized guardianship option, and it is used with some frequency. (Note: This may be different from the year that the Title IV-E plan amendment was approved.) _____
 - a) In what year was the first Title IV-E guardianship assistance agreement finalized? _____

b) What factors were considered in your state's decision to adopt GAP?

[Ask Questions 2 and 2a for states indicating some % of subsidized guardianship funding comes from non-Title IV-E funding.]

2) If your state has a non-Title IV-E guardianship assistance program, in what year was the program fully implemented?

a) In what year was your state's first non-Title IV-E guardianship assistance agreement finalized?

[Ask Question 3 only for states that do not use Title IV-E dollars to fund subsidized guardianship programs.]

3) If your state does not have a Title IV-E guardianship assistance program, why not?

[Ask all states Questions 4 and 5.]

4) What, if any, major state policy initiatives or other changes were implemented around the time of subsidized guardianship implementation that may also have **increased** the number of children exiting the foster care system to relatives, guardianship or subsidized guardianship?

5) Where there any major state policy initiatives or other changes implemented around this time that may have **decreased** the number of children exiting the foster care system to relatives, guardianship or subsidized guardianship?

[Ask all states each of the remaining questions.]

Judicial

6) In your state, which court awards guardianship?

___ Dependency court ___ Probate court Other: _____

Which court handles the guardianship case post-entry into subsidized guardianship?

7) On average, from the time a petition or motion for subsidized guardianship is filed, how much time does it take (in months) for subsidized guardianship decisions to be rendered?

_____ months

8) In general, how would you rate the amount of time it takes to obtain a court decision?

Too Short		About Right		Too Long
1	2	3	4	5

9) What judicial changes, if any, are needed to improve the use of subsidized guardianship in your state?

Policy

10) Must the subsidized guardian be a relative by blood, marriage, or adoption?

Yes No

11) Federal guidelines require that adoption and reunification be deemed “not appropriate options” prior to subsidized guardianship. How does your state interpret these guidelines?

12) Does your state interpret the guidelines as “adoption and reunification must be *ruled out* prior to pursuit of subsidized guardianship”? Yes No

13) Does your state require that children live with the relative (guardian) for longer than 6 months prior to establishing subsidized guardianship? Yes No If so, how long? _____

Are there additional criteria in your state that eliminate a family from consideration for guardianship?

If so, what are those criteria?

Does your state require that a guardian become a licensed foster parent to receive subsidized guardianship funds?

14) In your state, what happens when a guardian dies or is otherwise unable to fulfill the role of guardian? _____

15) Does your state statute or other policy identify the process for appointing a successor subsidized guardian? Yes No

16) Does your state require annual or semi-annual subsidized guardianship reports?

Yes No

a. Is a review process in place for the subsidized guardianship reports you receive?

Yes No If yes, please describe the review process:

b. Have any guardianship assistance agreements been terminated by the court as a result of the review of these required reports? __Yes __No If so, approximately how many? _____

17) What policy changes, if any, are needed to improve the use of subsidized guardianship in your state?

Practice

18) How supportive are each of the following groups of people regarding the use of subsidized guardianship to resolve dependency cases in your state? Please rate your answer from 0 to 4.

Group	Not At All Supportive 0	A little Supportive 1	Somewhat Supportive 2	Very Supportive 3	Very Strongly Supportive 4	Don't Know/ No Opinion
a. Judges						
b. Child welfare caseworkers						
c. Parents' Attorneys						
d. Attorneys for the Agency, State or County						
e. GALs/CASAs						

19) a. In your state, how easy is it to modify or terminate a subsidized guardianship?

Very Easy	Easy	Somewhat Easy	Difficult	Very Difficult
0	1	2	3	4

b. Please explain your answer.

Final Thoughts on Subsidized Guardianship

- 20) Are there any other factors, policies or financing strategies that we have not discussed that contribute to the successful implementation of subsidized guardianship in your jurisdiction?

Thank you very much for your time. We will keep you on our distribution list and be sure to share any reports or documents that come out of this project.