



Newaygo County Circuit Court Guardianship Adoption Information Abuse/Neglect Petitions

When a guardian wishes to adopt the child/ren that he/she has guardianship over additional steps may need to be taken to free the child/ren for adoption by the guardian. If the legal parents of the child/ren are unwilling to **consent** to the adoption then the guardian will have to file an abuse/neglect petition to attempt to terminate the parental rights of the legal parents prior to the guardianship adoption proceeding. A guardian may wish to speak to the Probate Court in which guardianship was granted to determine if permission to consent is required in the case.

Guardians wishing to file for adoption may file their petitions and other paperwork and proceed through the adoption investigation portion of the adoption process. This ensures that the adoption will be recommended prior to the guardian initiating the additional work of filing the abuse/neglect petition to terminate the parental rights of the parents. However, the guardian may wish to complete the neglect/abuse portion first and then file the adoption petition.

The Newaygo County Circuit Court staff may provide information about this process. However, **staff may not offer legal advice and may provide informational/process knowledge only. All paperwork, filing and notice requirements, etc. are the sole responsibility of the guardian filing the adoption petition and the abuse/neglect petition. An attorney is recommended but is not required.** The cost of the abuse/neglect petition is free. The cost of filing the adoption case is \$185.00.

The following information or contacts may be reviewed and utilized by guardians seeking to file an abuse/neglect petition to terminate the parental rights of the parents:

Newaygo County Circuit Court (231) 689-7274
Probate Register/ Family Court Administrator c2762nmp@co.newaygo.mi.us

Michigan Legal Help
Information about Child Protective Services (CPS) and the Neglect/Abuse Process
<http://michiganlegalhelp.org/self-help-tools/family/cps-and-your-family>

Michigan Courts
Search Child Protective Proceedings/Information about and links to necessary forms
<http://courts.mi.gov>