

	<b>Power of Attorney (POA)</b>	<b>Guardianship</b>	<b>Adoption</b>
<b>Length of time</b>	Maximum 6 months	Will be reevaluated each year; maximum 3 years	Forever
<b>Made official by</b>	Notary	Court	Court
<b>Attorney needed</b>	No, but you can seek their advice	Yes, due to complexity, but not required	Yes, due to complexity, but not required
<b>Your legal rights &amp; responsibilities</b>	Generally limited to access school and healthcare for the child	You have most rights & responsibilities (school, medical)	You have full legal rights and responsibilities over the child
<b>Birth Parents rights &amp; responsibilities</b>	Maintain all rights and responsibilities	Varies, depends on the court. Still have the obligation to financially support the child & the right to have visitation and contact with the child	None, birth parent rights are terminated
<b>Visits with birth parents</b>	Yes, if able	Yes, to the extent allowed by the court in the guardianship order. Guardians could allow additional visits if they want but not less unless court allowed	You decide if the child can visit with parents
<b>Continued court involvement</b>	Does not require	Will be reevaluated each year; maximum 3 years	Initial 6 month follow up then nothing
<b>Claiming child on taxes</b>	The birth parents still claim child	Yes & no. Child must live w/ guardian over 6 months. Check w/ tax professional based on your case	The child is yours to claim on taxes
<b>Child welfare involvement</b>	Yes & no. Depends on if there is child welfare involvement beforehand	Yes & no. *If child welfare previously involved, may maintain involvement. *Private guardianship petitions that allege deprivation are reported. If there's nothing that concerns child welfare, they don't get involved. If the parents and guardian are all in agreement, chances are the Juvenile Court officers and directors won't report when the petition is filed.	None
<b>Parent right to cancel</b>	Parent can revoke at anytime	Parent can petition to end arrangement	None after completed, unless previously unknown parent comes forward
<b>Change child's name</b>	No	No	Yes
<b>Can I add the child to my health insurance</b>	No	Depends on your insurance carrier	Yes
<b>Can the child receive Medicaid</b>	Yes, if eligible	Yes, if eligible	If adopted from foster care the child automatically gets Medicaid