



How to Change Your Guardian(s) or End Your Guardianship

In Colorado, you have a right to a lawyer to help you change your guardian(s) or end your guardianship. Below is a flow chart that moves through the legal process of how you can access a lawyer.

➤ See diagram on the next page ◀

STEP 1:
Submit Legal Documents to the Court
[See next page for a checklist of the legal documents.]



STEP 2:
Hearing on Giving Informed Consent
Before you can get a lawyer, the judge must make sure that you can give your informed consent to become a lawyer's client.

If the court decides:
Yes, You Can
Give Informed
Consent

If the court decides:
No, You Cannot
Give Informed
Consent

STEP 3:

You Can Get a Lawyer

- If you get Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Medicaid, the court will pay for your lawyer.
- If you do not get SSI or Medicaid, you will probably have to pay for the lawyer yourself.

STEP 3:

You Can Ask the Court to Give You a Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) Instead

- The GAL can help you file an appeal to get a lawyer.
- The GAL can also talk to you about why you want to change your guardians or end your guardianship. The GAL will then share that information with the judge.

Sources: COLO. REV. STAT. § 15-14-319(1) (West 2022) (effective Aug. 10, 2016); *Milstein v. Ayers*, 955 P.2d 78, 80-81 (Colo. App. 1998).

Checklist of legal documents that must be submitted to the court for **STEP 1**:

- JDF 852, Petition for Termination of Guardianship – Adult:
<https://www.coloradojudicial.gov/self-help-and-forms/self-help-forms/petition-termination-guardianship-adult>
 - Fill this form out and attach any additional information that helps explain to the court why you no longer need a guardian.
 - You must mail or hand-deliver a copy of JDF 852 Petition for Termination of Guardianship – Adult (and attached information) to all interested persons in the case.
 - After mailing or hand-delivering a copy of JDF 852 Petition for Termination of Guardianship – Adult, fill out the Certificate of Service part of the form.
- JDF 854 Order for Termination of Guardianship – Adult:
<https://www.coloradojudicial.gov/self-help-and-forms/self-help-forms/order-termination-guardianship-adult>
 - Fill out the top "caption" part of this form and the court will fill out the rest.
- JDF 711 Notice of Hearing: <https://www.coloradojudicial.gov/self-help-and-forms/self-help-forms/notice-hearing-probate>
 - Give notice of the hearing date and time to all interested persons by mailing or hand-delivering a copy of this form. Fill out the Certificate of Service part of the form before you file it with the court.

Filing Steps:

- File JDF 852 and JDF 854 with the court.
- Contact the court about getting a date for a hearing.
- Give notice of the hearing to all interested parties. Fill the Certificate of Service portion of JDF 711 and file this form with the court too.
- There is no filing fee, and the form includes an option to request the appointment of an attorney or Guardian ad Litem (GAL).

This full checklist and information can also be found on the Colorado Judicial Branch's website: <https://www.coloradojudicial.gov/self-help/ending-guardianship>.

Support for Completing this Checklist

Colorado Judicial Districts' Self-Help Centers:

Every court has a self-help center for people who do not have lawyers. You can contact your court's self-help center and ask questions about the JDF forms. You can also ask the self-help center for your guardianship case number. Here is the list of self-help centers:

https://www.coloradojudicial.gov/sites/default/files/2024-07/Sherlock_Contact_List_for_Public.pdf.

Colorado Judicial Districts' ADA Coordinators:

Every court also has an ADA coordinator who you can ask for reasonable accommodations for completing these forms. Here is the list of ADA coordinators: <https://www.coloradojudicial.gov/ada-coordinators>.

If your court's self-help center or ADA coordinator will not help you, contact Disability Law Colorado at 303-722-0300. We might be able to support you in completing these forms, and we want to track which courts are not providing support.

P.O. Box 300309
Denver, CO 80203
800.288.1376

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