

## MAKE A PLAN

- ❖ Make arrangements for a trusted adult to pick up or care for your child in an emergency.
- ❖ Memorize important phone numbers.
- ❖ Copy your legal documents (your passport or birth certificate) and tell your family where you keep them.
- ❖ Complete the legal forms to name a standby guardian for your child in case you are detained. A guardian is someone who will be responsible for your child and make decisions for them if you are not available.



Greater Hartford Legal Aid  
999 Asylum Ave. Third Floor  
Hartford, CT 06105  
860-541-5000  
<http://www.ghla.org>  
<http://www.ctlawhelp.org>

## Information for Immigrant Parents

### How Can I Protect My Child If I Am Detained or Deported?

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As a parent, you make decisions for your child. If you are not available, your child will need someone else to have that legal authority.

You can complete a legal form to choose that person. The person is called a standby guardian. A standby guardian only makes decisions for your child if you are detained.

A plan can help you feel calmer. There are people who want to help.

## What does a standby guardian do?

If you are not available, a guardian will be responsible for your child. A guardian can also apply for the following benefits for your child:

- Medical Insurance
- Education
- Cash Assistance (TFA)
- Social Security
- Food Stamps

## How can I get a standby guardianship?

You have to complete the legal form. It has to be signed by you and by your child's other parent.

You do not need the signature of your child's other parent if he or she has:

- been removed as guardian
- died

## Do I have to go to court?

No, unless you have a problem getting your child's other parent to sign the form. If the other parent is dead or been removed as a guardian you don't need his or her signature.

## How much does it cost?

There is no cost.

## Where can I get the legal form for a standby guardianship?

On line at [www.ctlawhelp.org/immigration](http://www.ctlawhelp.org/immigration).

## How does a standby guardian work?

The guardianship starts as soon as you are detained. It gives the standby guardian the power and duty to care for your child, to get medical care, to provide food, clothing, and shelter, and to make sure your child is educated.

## How long does a standby guardian last?

Until you take charge of your child again or for one year, whichever is less. You can end the guardianship any time.

## How can I know if a standby guardianship is best for my family?

Everyone's circumstances are different. There are other options. A lawyer can help you decide what is best. Greater Hartford Legal Aid may be able to answer your questions. Call GHLA at (860) 541-5000. Ask for Janet or Luz. GHLA Attorney Giovanna Shay is responsible for the content of this brochure.