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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Undocumented Individuals Can Plan to Protect Their Children

Between 2015 and the end of 2017, almost 90,000 undocumented immigrants who were deported had children who are U.S. citizens. These numbers continue to rise. What happens to U.S. citizen children whose parents are detained or deported? For many immigrant families, this is their greatest concern.

New York has expanded its Standby Guardian law to allow parents to designate ahead of time the person who would take over as legal guardian if they are detained or deported. In New Jersey and Pennsylvania, similar legislation has been introduced. However, in all three states, there are important steps you can take to protect your family.

Advance planning is important because it gives you the most control over who cares for your children and because it reduces the risk that your child will be placed in foster care. It can also ease some of the fear and helplessness that families feel, never knowing if and when their lives could change forever.

At Norris McLaughlin, our immigration, trusts and estates, and family law groups have worked together to develop the specialized documents and processes needed to protect undocumented individuals and their families. We can assist you to provide legal authority for a caregiver for medical and education purposes, to appoint a standby or temporary guardian for your child, and to ensure your assets and your children's assets are protected.

Our *Deportation Family Protection Package* includes:

- Designation of Standby/Temporary Guardian
- Waiver of Process, Renunciation, and Consent to Guardianship
- Guardian Information Sheet
- Consent for Minor Child to Travel
- Resignation & Designation of Successor Custodian pursuant to Uniform Transfers to Minors Act
- Authorization to Retrieve Personal Property
- Power of Attorney
- Last Will & Testament

In New York, we can also initiate Standby Guardian Proceedings where appropriate. To learn more about this or any other immigration matter, please feel free to contact immigration@norris-law.com.



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