

The Process for Article 17A Guardianship in NY

Fill out all forms

Collect additional documents

File (also called “serve”) all forms and documents at the court

(The court will often request additional documentation. File all additional documentation requested by the court.)

You will receive a court date for your hearing (called a “citation”)

Attend hearing: all potential guardians (called “petitioners”) and your child (called the “ward” or “respondent”) generally need to attend the hearing.*

The court will determine whether you can be appointed guardian for your child.

You will receive a court order called “letters of guardianship”

*i.e., Both parents. Standby guardians are generally not required to attend the hearing.
Some counties will excuse the child from attending the hearing if they are under the age of 18.