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TEN CONSIDERATIONS WHEN CHOOSING A GUARDIAN FOR MINOR CHILDREN

By: Sabrina Winters, Charlotte, North Carolina Wills and Trusts Attorney

1. Age?

If the Guardian is too young perhaps he or she is not at the right place in his or her life to care for a child. Or, if he or she is too elderly perhaps he or she is not physically capable of caring for a child long term.

2. Does the Guardian have children or plan on having children?

Maybe the Guardian has all the children he or she can or want to care for or he or she wants to have more children and could not be able to care for others in the future.

3. Is the person married?

If so, you need to consider whether you like the spouse as well. After all, your child will be living in the same home as that spouse. If he or she is not married, you should consider whether you are comfortable with your child being raised by a single parent. There are some difficult obstacles that a single parent faces every day.

4. What are the religious beliefs of the person?

This is something to think about if it is important for you to have your children raised with the same religious beliefs as you are currently raising them with.

5. Is he or she a “blood” relative?

Be careful if you are considering an “in-law”. You should always consider the possibility of divorce, regardless of how happy they are today.

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6. Does your child actually like this person?

You may think he or she is the perfect person to raise your child, but if your child does not have or show the same feelings towards that person, you may be causing more harm than good.

7. How drastic will your child's daily life change?

Think about whether your child will have to move (in or out of state) or change schools. This could be a difficult transition without having just lost your parents. Imagine how difficult that would be if that type of move is due to your parents passing away.

8. Does this person have pets?

If your child has allergies that may be drastically affected by living in a home with a pet, that home may not be the best place for your child to live. Many people will not give up their pets that easily.

9. What type of job does this person have?

Think about whether that person has to travel for work or has a job that is considered dangerous. This may mean that your child may have to go to daycare (not that this is a bad thing) or potentially even be faced with losing another loved one.

10. Would you live with that person?

You cannot expect your child to live with someone if you could not see yourself living with this person.