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**ELIGIBLE CHILD**

A child who meets the eligibility criteria for receiving guardianship assistance under the Guardianship Assistance Act (MCL 722.871 et seq.).

**GUARDIAN**

A person appointed by the court to act as a legal guardian for a child under MCL 712A.19a and 712A.19c.

**GUARDIANSHIP  
ASSISTANCE  
AGREEMENT**

A negotiated, binding agreement regarding financial support as described in MCL 722.875 for children who meet the qualifications for guardianship assistance as specified in the Guardianship Assistance Act and the department's policies and administrative rules.

**LEGAL CUSTODIAN**

An individual who is at least 18 years old in whose care a child remains or is placed after a court makes required findings under MCL 712a.13a (abuse and neglect). Legal custodians include unlicensed relatives and unrelated and unlicensed persons with whom a court has placed a child, and licensed foster parents.

**RELATIVE**

An individual who is at least 18 years of age and related to the child within the fifth degree by blood, marriage, or adoption, including the spouse of an individual related to the child within the fifth degree, even after the marriage has ended by death or divorce, the parent who shares custody of a half-sibling, and the parent of a man whom the court has found probable cause to believe is the putative father if there is no man with legally established rights to the child.

A relative may also be an individual who is at least 18 years of age and not related to a child within the fifth degree by blood, marriage, or adoption but who has a strong positive emotional tie or role in the child's life or the child's parent's life if the child is an infant, as determined by the department or, if the child is an Indian child, as determined solely by the Indian child's tribe. As described under MCL 712a.13a.

**SIBLING**

Sister or brother, related to the child by blood (same birth mother and/or father) or adoption regardless of whether the siblings ever lived in the same household. Sibling also includes that term as defined by the American Indian or Alaskan native child's tribal code or custom (MCL 722.952).

**SUCCESSOR  
GUARDIAN**

"Successor guardian" means a person appointed by the court to act as a legal guardian when the preceding guardian is no longer able to act as a result of their death or incapacitation under section 19a or 19c of chapter XIIA of the probate code, MCL 712A.19a and 712A.19c. Successor guardian does not include a person appointed as a guardian if that person's parental rights to the child have been terminated or suspended.

**TITLE IV-E**

The federal assistance provided through the United States Department of Health and Human Services to reimburse states for foster care, adoption assistance payments, and guardianship assistance payments.