Single Mom Life Insurance

FREE CHECKLIST

Beneficiary and Guardian Checklist for Single Moms

The people and papers that protect your kids, on one printable list

If you die while your kids are young, two decisions matter most: who raises them and who manages the money you leave. This checklist puts both on paper, with room to write each name. Take it one box at a time, and give yourself a few evenings.

Part 1: Who raises your kids

- [ ] Make a short list of adults who know and love your children
- [ ] Ask each one whether they could say yes, and talk about money, schools and values
- [ ] Choose a first and a backup guardian
- [ ] Tell the people you chose, in person

First choice guardian

Backup guardian

> A will is where a guardian is usually named. A judge makes the final decision, based on what is best for the child, and if the other parent is living that parent usually has the first claim. A family lawyer in your state can explain how it works there.

General education, not insurance, legal or tax advice. Figures are examples unless a source is named. Prices and rules vary by state and insurer.

Part 2: Who manages the money

The NAIC says experts advise against naming a minor child as a beneficiary, because insurance companies will not pay a minor. Choose one way for the money to reach your children.

- [ ] A trust, with a trustee I choose
- [ ] A custodian for each child under my state's Uniform Transfers to Minors rules
- [ ] A different person as money manager than the guardian, if that fits my family
- [ ] I asked a family lawyer to confirm my choice

Money manager or trustee

Backup money manager

Part 3: The beneficiary form

- [ ] Primary beneficiary is the trust or custodian, not a minor child
- [ ] I wrote the full legal name and date of birth
- [ ] A backup beneficiary is named
- [ ] I matched the form to my will
- [ ] I did the same for every policy, including work cover

Policy	Primary beneficiary	Backup
Policy 1		
Policy 2		
Work plan		

Part 4: A page for your guardian

A short letter is not a legal document, but it helps. Write it by hand and keep a copy with your papers.

- [ ] Names and phone numbers of the children's doctors and schools
- [ ] Routines, allergies and medicines
- [ ] Where the will and each policy are kept, and the insurer's phone number
- [ ] Who to call first: lawyer, insurance agent, employer

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Part 5: Keep it current

- [ ] Put a review date in my calendar once a year
- [ ] Review after a birth, a move, a new partner, a new job or a death
- [ ] Tell the guardian and money manager when anything changes

Review date

Where I keep the papers

Sources

- NAIC: Life insurance buyer's guide (PDF)
  content.naic.org/sites/default/files/publication-lig-lp-consumer-life.pdf
- USA.gov: Find legal aid
  www.usa.gov/legal-aid

Questions about the amount? Try the calculators at singlemomlifeinsurance.com/tools.

singlemomlifeinsurance.com/quote or call (888) 635-3511

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