

# How do you become a conservator?

## Key facts

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- Texas will not let a court appoint anyone as guardian, other than the ward's own attorney, until that person completes the free training course state law requires (Texas Estates Code Section 1104.003; Texas Government Code Section 155.204, checked 2026-09-25).
- Every Texas county clerk must run a state and FBI criminal history check on a proposed guardian before appointment, and may charge up to \$10 to cover it (Texas Estates Code Section 1104.402, checked 2026-09-25).
- Florida bars anyone convicted of a felony from serving as a guardian, and most other applicants must pay for a credit history check and a Level 2 fingerprint background screening before the court will appoint them (Florida Statutes Sections 744.309 and 744.3135, checked 2026-09-25).
- Once appointed, a Florida guardian must complete 8 hours of court-approved training within 4 months, or 4 hours if the role covers only a minor's property (Florida Statutes Section 744.3145, checked 2026-09-25).
- Arizona courts can require a proposed conservator to submit a full set of fingerprints for a state and FBI records check, unless that person is already a licensed fiduciary (Arizona Revised Statutes Section 14-5401, checked 2026-09-25).
- California requires a proposed conservator to be "bondable," meaning a surety company must be willing to insure them, and to watch a short court video and read the Handbook for Conservators before the hearing (CANHR; Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo, checked 2026-09-25).
- Utah requires a proposed conservator to pass a test on their authority and responsibilities and file a certificate of completion with the court before appointment (Utah Courts Self-Help, checked 2026-09-25).

## Checklist: becoming a conservator, step by step

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- ☐ Confirmed you meet your state's basic eligibility rules and are not disqualified
- ☐ Identified whether the role needed is of the estate, of the person, or both
- ☐ Completed or scheduled the required background, credit or fingerprint check
- ☐ Completed any pre-appointment training or test your state requires
- ☐ Filed or joined the petition with the correct probate or trial court
- ☐ Attended the hearing and received the court's order
- ☐ Posted any required bond and taken the oath of office
- ☐ Received certified letters of conservatorship
- ☐ Calendared any post-appointment training deadline and the first accounting date