

## **Minor Settlement**

### **Who Needs a Guardian?**

Natural parents do not have an inherent right to settle personal injury claims on behalf of a minor child. The Probate Court must authorize approval of such settlements. If the settlement exceeds \$25,000, the Court will require the appointment of a guardian of an estate.

### **Why does someone have to be appointed guardian when the amount is over \$25,000?**

If the gross settlement is over \$25,000.00, the law requires a guardian of the estate to be appointed and to sign the application for approval of the settlement. If the amount is less than \$25,000 a parent or custodian may file the Application for Approval of the Settlement.

### **How Do I Proceed With Terminating a Guardianship?**

In the case of a minor, upon reaching the age of majority (18) the guardianship will terminate as a matter of law. Funds held for the minor are to be released to the minor at that time.