

What Happens If My Minor Child Inherits?

If your minor child inherits without a trust, their inheritance will go through guardianship of estate, which is an expensive and awkward process where a court appoints an adult to manage your child's money until they turn 18. At 18, the guardianship automatically terminates and the money is released to your 18-year-old in one lump sum.

If you are divorced, and your child's other parent is still living, it's possible that they will be appointed as a guardian of the child's estate, to manage the money that was left for the child.

If you create a trust, you can avoid the guardianship of the estate process entirely. Additionally, in the trust, you can specify who will manage your child's money until they are old enough, and also set an age of distribution that is older than 18.

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