

Parental Powers and Duties	Legal mechanisms reallocating parental powers and duties							
	Informal arrangements	Caregiver Authorization G.L. c. 201F	Temporary Agency G.L. c.190B, s.5-103	Guardianship G.L. c. 190B, s. 5-201, et seq.	Foster parent G.L. c. 119, s.32	Adoption G.L. c. 210	Divorce G.L. c. 208	
Day-to-day care	Can be delegated, but parent retains responsibility	Not affected	May delegate some or all powers and responsibilities	Transfers all powers and responsibilities	Care taker only	All powers and responsibilities transferred (but inheritance not affected)	Court may divide powers and duties between parents	
Financial support					Financial support from state.			
Legal decisions		N/A			Authorized caregiver can stand in on medical and educational decisions			DCF has legal authority for health and education
Educational choices								Court or parent must approve extraordinary medical
Medical care								?
Emergency								Guardian ad-litem
Routine								
Extraordinary								
Financial assets		N/A						
Litigation decisions								
Time Limit	None	Two years but may be reauthorized	60 days. No prohibition on repetition.	May or may not be time limited	Intended to be short term pending reunification or adoption	Permanent	Permanent	
Court Approval	None	No	No	Yes (parent may or may not consent to or direct appointment)	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Revocable	Yes	Yes	Yes	By court	By court	No	Yes	
Typical Uses	Many	Extended stay with friends or family, parent not readily available	Parent unavailable for brief period	Parent indefinitely unfit or unavailable	Parent indefinitely unfit or unavailable	Parent permanently unfit or unavailable		

Prepared by: Office of State Senator Will Brownsberger, November 2015. Intended only as a law finding guide – not as definitive or for legal advice.