

**Probate Investigators** gather information to assist the Court in making Decisions pertaining to **Guardianship and Conservatorship** matters. They provide their findings and recommendations to the Probate Court Judges.

The Probate Investigations office is located in Room 208, Stanley Mosk Courthouse. The office is open from 8a.m. to 4:30p.m., Monday through Friday and closed from noon to 1 p.m..

The phone number is (213) 830-0655.

<b>Guardianship Petitions</b>	
<p>What is the role of the Probate Investigator?</p>	<p>The Probate Investigator’s role is to look into the reasons for the guardianship, the suitability of the proposed guardian(s), the needs of the minors and their preferences. The investigator will also provide the Court with history of the minor’s care.</p> <p>Qualifications to be a Probate Investigator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Graduation from an accredited 4 year university with a degree in social science, psychology, or closely related field -AND- 3 years of experience performing field investigations as a probation or parole officer, law enforcement officer, or social worker.</li> <li>▶ Some investigators hold master’s degrees in a mental health area and a clinical license: LCSW and LMFT.</li> <li>▶ Many have backgrounds with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) or Adult Protective Services (APS)</li> </ul>
<p>How is the Probate Investigation conducted?</p>	<p>The Probate Investigator meets face to face with the proposed guardian(s) and the minor(s) for an interview. The Probate Investigator will meet with the parties together and separately. The interviews will typically be scheduled within a month prior to the hearing date.</p> <p>Please note: During the COVID-19 pandemic, all interviews will be conducted by video-conferencing or telephone.</p>
<p>How do I prepare for the Probate Investigation?</p>	<p>First, the proposed guardian(s) and minor(s) should be made available. Second, the documents requested by the Probate</p>

	Investigator, like the immunizations and school records, should be emailed ahead of time to <a href="mailto:PI@lacourt.org">PI@lacourt.org</a> Third, contact information for the minor(s)' parents should be provided, if available.
How does the Probate Investigator conduct a guardianship investigation?	The Probate Investigator will request history on the minor(s) and proposed guardian(s) from the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). The Probate Investigations office will also conduct a criminal background check of the proposed guardian(s). The DCFS information and criminal background check information is not provided to the parties without an order from the court. The Probate Investigator will meet with the proposed guardian(s) and minor(s) and then prepare a written report. The Probate Investigator will provide recommendations to the court regarding the guardianship.
Will the Probate Investigator speak with the parents of the minors?	Yes.
What contact will the Probate Investigator have after the petition for guardianship is granted?	The Probate Investigator will generally not have ongoing contact with the guardian(s) or minor(s) but may initiate further contact with the parties if requested by the court.
Where is the Probate Investigations office?	Probate Investigations is located in the Stanley Mosk Courthouse, Room 208. Hours are 8AM to 4:30PM, with a break between noon-1PM.
If I have a concern or question, who should I contact?	The Supervising Probate Investigators may be contacted at 213-830-0855.