

Family Shield Conversation Starter Kit

Simple scripts and prompts to help you begin the conversations most families avoid



You do not need to solve every decision today. The goal of this kit is to help you start the right conversations with clarity, calm, and grace.

Choose one conversation to begin with: your spouse, a potential guardian, your children, or another trusted decision-maker. Start small. Keep it calm. Then take the next step.

1. Conversation with Your Spouse

The biggest hurdle to a Family Shield is often not the law. It is the conversation. Use this starting point to begin with clarity and grace.

Starter Script:

“I’ve been thinking about our Family Shield, and I don’t want us to live in fear or keep assuming we have unlimited time. Could we set aside 30 minutes this week to talk through guardianship and a basic plan for the kids?”

Questions to Talk Through:

- If something happened to us, who would we hope our kids ended up with?
- What makes them a good fit spiritually, emotionally, and practically?
- What are our biggest fears about guardianship, provision, or planning?
- What is one decision we could make this week instead of leaving it in the “someday” category?

Gentle Reminder

You do not need to solve the whole plan in one conversation. The goal is to begin.

2. Conversation with Potential Guardians

Choosing guardians is one of the most important decisions parents can make. This conversation may feel heavy, but it is also an act of love.

You are not asking someone to carry an unsupported burden. You are inviting them into a conversation as you build the structure, provision, and guidance that would support them if they ever had to step in.

Starter Script:

“We’ve been working on a plan for the kids in case something ever happened to us. You’re one of the people we deeply trust and admire. Would you be open to talking about the possibility of being named as guardians? We hope we never need it, but we’d rather choose intentionally than leave it up to the state.”

Reassure Them

“We are not asking you to answer immediately. We want you to pray, think, and ask us anything you need to ask.”

“We are also working on the legal structure, provision, and written guidance so this would not simply be a burden dropped on you without support.”

Questions to Ask:

- Would you be open to being named as guardian?
- What questions or concerns would you need us to answer?
- Would there be any practical issues we should think through together?
- If you said yes, what guidance would help you feel more prepared?

Gentle Reminder

Give them space to pray and process. A clear “no” is better than an assumed “yes.”

3. Talking to Your Kids Without Making It Scary

Children do not need a frightening conversation. They need calm, simple reassurance.

Keep it short. Keep it age-appropriate. Choose a normal moment — not bedtime, not during a crisis, and not when emotions are already high. A walk, a drive, or a quiet afternoon can work well.

End with something normal, like a snack, a game, homework, or a family activity.

For Younger Kids:

“God has given us the job of taking care of you. Part of that job is making a plan for who would take care of you if anything ever happened to us. We don’t expect that to happen, but we love you enough to plan anyway. You are safe, you are loved, and we have a plan.”

For Older Kids:

“We’re putting things in place so that if something ever happened to us, your future wouldn’t be left to confusion or court decisions. We want you to know we are thinking carefully about who would care for you, how you would be provided for, and what guidance we would leave behind. We’d love to hear any questions or concerns you have.”

Simple Answers to Common Questions

- “Are you going to die?”
 - *“We are healthy and we plan to be here a long time. This is like wearing a seatbelt. We do not wear it because we expect a crash; we wear it because it is wise to be prepared.”*
- “Will I have to move?”
 - *“Our goal is stability. We are writing down instructions to help keep your life as steady as possible.”*
- “Why would I live with them?”
 - *“We chose them because we trust their values, their love for you, and their ability to care for you well.”*
- “Would I still see people I love?”
 - *“That matters to us too. We are thinking through how to keep you connected to the people who love you.”*

Reassurance to Repeat

“You are safe. You are loved. And we have a plan.”

4. Nora's Notes: What Kids May Wonder About

We asked Nora what kids might wonder if they heard their parents talking about guardianship or “what if” plans. Her answers reminded us that kids often care about very practical, very personal things adults may forget.

Questions Kids May Secretly Have

- Would I still see my friends?
- Could I stay with my siblings?
- Would I have to move?
- Would I still be homeschooled or go to the same school?
- Would I still go to the same church?
- Would I still be able to participate in my activities, like swim team, piano, sports, or clubs?
- Would I still get to see my grandparents and relatives?
- Would I get to keep my pets?

What May Help Kids Feel Safe

“We don't expect anything to happen. We plan to live a long time.”

“We don't want you to be afraid. We want to have a plan just in case.”

“You are safe. You are loved. And we have a plan.”

Things Kids May Care About That Adults Forget

- Whether they feel comfortable in the guardian's home
- Whether they get to stay connected to siblings, friends, church, grandparents, relatives, and pets
- Whether their routines and activities would continue
- Whether older kids get to ask questions or share concerns
- Whether the guardian knows the little things that help them feel safe

What a Guardian Should Know

- Favorite things and traditions
- Activities and interests
- Bedtime comforts
- What helps the child feel calm
- What makes the child feel anxious
- Family rhythms they would want continued
- Important relationships the child would want preserved

Nora's Advice to Parents

Explain it calmly and at the right age.

You do not have to tell everything at once.

Small, calm conversations over time can help kids feel safe instead of shocked.

5. Conversation with Other Decision-Makers

Your Family Shield may include more than guardians. You may also need to talk with trustees, powers of attorney, healthcare decision-makers, executors, or other trusted people who may one day be asked to help.

These conversations do not need to be long. The goal is to make sure the people you name are willing, able, and informed.

Starter Script:

“We are working on our Family Shield and putting our estate plan in order. As part of that, we are thinking carefully about who we would trust to help if we could not make decisions or if something happened to us. You are someone we trust, and we wanted to ask if you would be open to a conversation about possibly serving in that role.”

Questions to Ask:

- Would you be comfortable being named in this role?
- Do you understand what this responsibility might involve?
- Would anything make this difficult for you right now?
- What information would help you feel prepared?
- Would you be willing to let us know if your availability changes in the future?

Gentle Reminder

Do not assume someone is willing just because they love you. Ask clearly. Give them time. Then document the answer.

6. Conversation Tracker

Use this section to choose one next conversation and move it from “someday” to scheduled.

| Conversation | Person | Date | Status |
|---------------------------|--------|------|-----------------------------------|
| Spouse | | | Not started / Started / Completed |
| Potential Guardian 1 | | | Not started / Started / Completed |
| Potential Guardian 2 | | | Not started / Started / Completed |
| Trustee/Money Manager | | | Not started / Started / Completed |
| Power of Attorney | | | Not started / Started / Completed |
| Healthcare Decision/Maker | | | Not started / Started / Completed |
| Kids | | | Not started / Started / Completed |
| Other Family Member | | | Not started / Started / Completed |

One Conversation I Will Start This Week

Conversation:

Person:

When:

First step:

7. Your Next Step

This kit is designed to help you begin the conversations.

You do not need to have every answer today.

You do not need to solve every decision in one sitting.

You simply need to take the next faithful step.

Building a Family Shield happens one honest conversation, one clear decision, and one act of follow-through at a time.

The full Family Shield framework includes:

The Guardian

Who would raise your children if you could not?

The Structure

Would your plan create clarity or confusion?

The Provision

Would the people caring for your family have the resources to care for them well?

The Blueprint

What guidance, values, and instructions would you leave behind?

The Heart

What legacy are you living while you are still here?

If this kit helped you realize there are gaps you are ready to begin closing, your next step is to schedule your Family Shield Planning Call: <https://familyshieldstateplanning.com/calendar/>

On that call, we will look at your family's situation, identify your biggest gaps, and determine whether the Family Shield System is the right fit to help you move forward.

You are not doing this because you are afraid.

You are doing this because your family is worth protecting.

Start with one conversation.

Then take the next step.

Someday is not a plan — but one faithful step today can begin changing that.

With you in stewardship,

Jim & Beth



FAMILY SHIELD
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