

**Maine Revised Statutes**  
**Title 18-A: PROBATE CODE**

**Article :**

**§9-204. TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS**

(a). A petition for termination of parental rights may be brought in Probate Court in which an adoption petition is properly filed as part of that adoption petition except when the District Court has exclusive jurisdiction over the child pursuant to Title 4, section 152, subsection 5-A.

[ 2015, c. 460, §8 (AMD) .]

(b). Except as otherwise provided by this section, a termination of parental rights petition is subject to the provisions of Title 22, chapter 1071, subchapter VI.

[ 1997, c. 683, Pt. A, §8 (AMD) .]

(c). The court may appoint a guardian ad litem for the child. The appointment must be made as soon as possible after the petition for termination of parental rights is initiated.

(1). The court shall pay reasonable costs and expenses for the guardian ad litem. [1995, c. 694, Pt. C, §7 (NEW); 1995, c. 694, Pt. E, §2 (AFF).]

(2). The guardian ad litem must be given access to all reports and records relevant to the case. In general, the guardian ad litem shall represent the child. The guardian ad litem may conduct an investigation to ascertain the facts that includes:

- (i) Reviewing records of psychiatric, psychological or physical examinations of the child, parents or other persons having or seeking care or custody of the child;
- (ii) Interviewing the child with or without other persons present;
- (iii) Interviewing, subpoenaing, examining and cross-examining witnesses; and
- (iv) Making recommendations to the court. [1995, c. 694, Pt. C, §7 (NEW); 1995, c. 694, Pt. E, §2 (AFF).]

[ 1995, c. 694, Pt. C, §7 (NEW); 1995, c. 694, Pt. E, §2 (AFF) .]

**SECTION HISTORY**

1995, c. 694, §C7 (NEW). 1995, c. 694, §E2 (AFF). 1997, c. 683, §A8 (AMD). 2015, c. 460, §8 (AMD).

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