

First Regular Session of the 121st General Assembly (2019)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2018 Regular and Special Session of the General Assembly.

## SENATE ENROLLED ACT No. 380

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AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning probate.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

SECTION 1. IC 29-3-1-7.8 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A **NEW SECTION** TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2019]: **Sec. 7.8. (a) "Less restrictive alternatives" means an approach to meeting a person's needs that restricts fewer rights of the person than would the appointment of the guardian.**

**(b) Less restrictive alternatives may include, but are not limited to, the following:**

- (1) A supported decision making agreement (as defined in IC 29-3-14-2).**
- (2) Appropriate technological assistance.**
- (3) The appointment of a representative payee.**
- (4) The appointment of a health care representative (as defined in IC 16-36-1-2).**
- (5) The creation of a power of attorney (as defined in IC 30-5-2-7).**

SECTION 2. IC 29-3-5-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.162-2011, SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2019]: **Sec. 1. (a) Any person may file a petition for the appointment of a person to serve as guardian for an incapacitated person or minor under this chapter or to have a protective order issued under IC 29-3-4. The petition must state the following:**

- (1) The name, age, residence, and post office address of the**

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alleged incapacitated person or minor for whom the guardian is sought to be appointed or the protective order issued.

- (2) The nature of the incapacity.
- (3) The approximate value and description of the property of the incapacitated person or minor, including any compensation, pension, insurance, or allowance to which the incapacitated person or minor may be entitled.
- (4) If a limited guardianship is sought, the particular limitations requested.
- (5) Whether a protective order has been issued or a guardian has been appointed or is acting for the incapacitated person or minor in any state.
- (6) The residence and post office address of the proposed guardian or person to carry out the protective order and the relationship to the alleged incapacitated person of:
  - (A) the proposed guardian; or
  - (B) the person proposed to carry out the protective order.
- (7) The names and addresses, as far as known or as can reasonably be ascertained, of the persons most closely related by blood or marriage to the person for whom the guardian is sought to be appointed or the protective order is issued.
- (8) The name and address of the person or institution having the care and custody of the person for whom the guardian is sought to be appointed or the protective order is issued.
- (9) The names and addresses of any other incapacitated persons or minors for whom the proposed guardian or person to carry out the protective order is acting if the proposed guardian or person is an individual.
- (10) The reasons the appointment of a guardian or issuance of a protective order is sought and the interest of the petitioner in the appointment or issuance.
- (11) A description of the petitioner's efforts to use less restrictive alternatives before seeking guardianship, including:**
  - (A) the less restrictive alternatives for meeting the alleged incapacitated person's needs that were considered or implemented;**
  - (B) if a less restrictive alternative was not considered or implemented, the reason that the less restrictive alternative was not considered or implemented; and**
  - (C) the reason a less restrictive alternative is insufficient to meet the needs of the alleged incapacitated person.**



~~(11)~~ **(12)** The name and business address of the attorney who is to represent the guardian or person to carry out the protective order.

~~(12)~~ **(13)** Whether a child in need of services petition or a program of informal adjustment has been filed regarding the minor for whom a guardianship is being sought, and, if so, whether the case regarding the minor is open at the time the guardianship petition is filed.

(b) Notice of a petition under this section for the appointment of a guardian or the issuance of a protective order and the hearing on the petition shall be given under IC 29-3-6.

(c) After the filing of a petition, the court shall set a date for a hearing on the issues raised by the petition. Unless an alleged incapacitated person is already represented by counsel, the court may appoint an attorney to represent the incapacitated person.

(d) A person alleged to be an incapacitated person must be present at the hearing on the issues raised by the petition and any response to the petition unless the court determines by evidence that:

(1) it is impossible or impractical for the alleged incapacitated person to be present due to the alleged incapacitated person's disappearance, absence from the state, or similar circumstance;

(2) it is not in the alleged incapacitated person's best interest to be present because of a threat to the health or safety of the alleged incapacitated person as determined by the court;

(3) the incapacitated person has knowingly and voluntarily consented to the appointment of a guardian or the issuance of a protective order and at the time of such consent the incapacitated person was not incapacitated as a result of a mental condition that would prevent that person from knowingly and voluntarily consenting; or

(4) the incapacitated person has knowingly and voluntarily waived notice of the hearing and at the time of such waiver the incapacitated person was not incapacitated as a result of a mental condition that would prevent that person from making a knowing and voluntary waiver of notice.

(e) A person alleged to be an incapacitated person may present evidence and cross-examine witnesses at the hearing. The issues raised by the petition and any response to the petition shall be determined by a jury if a jury is requested no later than seventy-two (72) hours prior to the original date and time set for the hearing on the petition. However, in no event may a request for a jury trial be made after thirty (30) days have passed following the service of notice of a petition.



(f) Any person may apply for permission to participate in the proceeding, and the court may grant the request with or without hearing upon determining that the best interest of the alleged incapacitated person or minor will be served by permitting the applicant's participation. The court may attach appropriate conditions to the permission to participate.

(g) A court shall notify the department of child services of a hearing regarding the guardianship of a minor under this section if a:

- (1) child in need of services petition has been filed regarding the minor; or
- (2) program of informal adjustment involving the minor is pending.

The department of child services may participate in a hearing regarding the guardianship of a minor described in this subsection.

SECTION 3. IC 29-3-9-6, AS AMENDED BY P.L.99-2013, SECTION 8, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2019]: Sec. 6. (a) Unless otherwise directed by the court, a guardian (other than a temporary guardian) shall file with the court:

- (1) at least biennially, not more than thirty (30) days after the anniversary date of the guardian's appointment; and
- (2) not more than thirty (30) days after the termination of the appointment;

a written verified account of the guardian's administration.

(b) A temporary guardian shall file with the court, within thirty (30) days after the termination of the temporary guardian's appointment, and otherwise as ordered by the court, a written verified account of the temporary guardian's administration.

(c) A written verified account required under this section must include the incapacitated person's or minor's current residence and a description of the condition and circumstances of the incapacitated person or minor, **including a specific showing of whether guardianship is still necessary and appropriate, and whether any less restrictive alternatives have been considered or implemented.**

(d) The court shall conduct a hearing on each verified account filed under this section. The court shall give notice to each person entitled to receive notice that an accounting has been filed and will be acted upon by the court on the date set unless written objections are presented to the court on or before that date. The court shall give the notice required by this subsection, unless waived, to the following:

- (1) The protected person, unless waived by the court. If notice to the protected person is waived, the court shall give notice to a person who is not the guardian of the protected person in the



following priority:

- (A) The protected person's spouse.
  - (B) An adult child of the protected person.
  - (C) A parent of the protected person.
  - (D) A guardian ad litem appointed by the court under subsection (e).
- (2) In the case of a protected person who has died, the personal representative of the estate of the protected person, if any.
- (3) Any other persons that the court directs.
- (e) The court may appoint a guardian ad litem to review on behalf of a protected person an accounting filed under this section if:
- (1) the protected person does not have a spouse, an adult child, or a parent; or
  - (2) the same individual:
    - (A) served as the protected person's guardian before the death of the protected person; and
    - (B) is the personal representative of the protected person's estate.
- (f) When an account other than an account in final settlement is filed, the court may approve the same ex parte, but the account may be reviewed by the court at any subsequent time and does not become final until an account in final settlement is approved by the court after notice and hearing.
- (g) When notice of hearing has been given under this section, the order of the court approving the intermediate account or the final account is binding upon all persons.
- (h) When a guardian files with the court proper receipts or other evidence satisfactory to the court showing that the guardian has delivered to the appropriate persons all the property for which the guardian is accountable as guardian, the court shall enter an order of discharge. The order of discharge operates as a release from the duties of the guardian's office that have not yet terminated and operates as a bar to any suit against the guardian and the guardian's sureties, unless the suit is commenced within one (1) year from the date of the discharge.

SECTION 4. IC 29-3-14 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2019]:

**Chapter 14. Supported Decision Making**

**Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "supported decision making" refers to the process of supporting and accommodating an adult in the decision making process to make, communicate, and effectuate**

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life decisions, without impeding the self-determination of the adult.

**Sec. 2.** As used in this chapter, "supported decision making agreement" means a document that outlines the decision making supports and accommodations the adult chooses to receive from one (1) or more supporters.

**Sec. 3.** As used in this chapter, "supporter" means a person at least eighteen (18) years of age who has voluntarily agreed to assist an adult in the decision making process as outlined in the adult's supported decision making agreement.

**Sec. 4. (a)** An adult may not enter into a supported decision making agreement unless the adult:

- (1) enters into the agreement voluntarily and without coercion or undue influence; and
- (2) understands the nature and effect of the agreement.

**(b)** An adult may make, change, or revoke a supported decision making agreement even if the adult does not have the capacity to independently manage the adult's own health care, legal matters, or financial affairs.

**(c)** A court may not consider an adult's execution of a supported decision making agreement as evidence of incapacity. The existence of an executed supported decision making agreement does not preclude the adult from acting independently of the supported decision making agreement.

**(d)** An adult may not enter into a supported decision making agreement under this section if the agreement supplants the authority of a guardian of the adult, unless the guardian consents in writing to the adult entering into the supported decision making agreement.

**Sec. 5. (a)** A supporter must:

- (1) support the will and preference of the adult, and not the supporter's opinion of the adult's best interests;
- (2) act honestly, diligently, and in good faith;
- (3) act within the scope set forth in the adult's supported decision making agreement;
- (4) avoid conflicts of interest; and
- (5) notify the adult in writing of the supporter's intent to resign as a supporter.

**(b)** The relationship between an adult and a supporter is one of trust and confidence, and serves to preserve the decision making authority of the adult.

**(c)** A supporter is prohibited from:

- (1) exerting undue influence upon the adult;



- (2) receiving a fee for service related solely to services performed in the role of supporter;
- (3) obtaining, without the consent of the adult, information acquired for a purpose other than assisting the adult in making a specific decision authorized by the supported decision making agreement;
- (4) acting outside the scope of authority provided in the supported decision making agreement; or
- (5) obtaining, without the consent of the adult, nonpublic personal information as defined in 15 U.S.C. 6809(4)(A).

(d) A supporter who is expressly given relevant authority in a power of attorney may act within the scope of that authority to sign instructions or other documents on behalf of the adult, in order to communicate or implement decisions by the adult.

Sec. 6. A request or decision made or communicated with the assistance of a supporter in conformity with this chapter shall be recognized as the request or decision of the adult for the purposes of any provision of law.

Sec. 7. (a) A supported decision making agreement must:

- (1) name at least one (1) supporter;
- (2) describe the decision making assistance that each supporter may provide to the adult and how supporters may work together; and
- (3) if appropriate, be executed by the adult's guardian.

(b) A supported decision making agreement may:

- (1) appoint more than one (1) supporter;
- (2) appoint an alternate to act in the place of a supporter under circumstances specified in the agreement; or
- (3) authorize a supporter to share information with any other supporter or others named in the agreement.

(c) A supported decision making agreement must be:

- (1) in writing;
- (2) dated; and
- (3) signed by the adult in the presence of a notary.

(d) A supported decision making agreement must contain a separate consent signed by each supporter named in the agreement indicating the supporter's:

- (1) relationship to the adult;
- (2) willingness to act as a supporter; and
- (3) acknowledgment of the duties of a supporter.

(e) An adult who meets the requirements to enter into a supported decision making agreement under section 4 of this



chapter may sign a supported decision making agreement in any manner, including electronic signature, permitted under IC 30-5-4-1(5) or IC 30-5-11-4(a).

**Sec. 8.** An adult may revoke a supported decision making agreement at any time. A revocation under this section must be in writing, and a copy of the revocation must be provided to each supporter.

**Sec. 9. (a)** Except as provided in the supported decision making agreement, a supported decision making agreement terminates in the following situations:

(1) The adult subject of the supported decision making agreement dies.

(2) The adult subject of the supported decision making agreement revokes the agreement under section 8 of this chapter.

(3) The named supporters withdraw their participation without naming successor supporters.

(4) A court of competent jurisdiction determines that the adult does not have capacity to execute or consent to a supported decision making agreement.

(5) A court of competent jurisdiction determines that a supporter has used the supported decision making agreement to commit:

(A) financial exploitation;

(B) abuse; or

(C) neglect;

of the adult.

(6) A court of competent jurisdiction appoints a temporary or permanent guardian for the person or property of the adult, unless the court's order of appointment:

(A) expressly modifies but continues the supported decision making agreement; and

(B) limits the powers and duties of the guardian.

(7) The adult signs a valid durable power of attorney, except to the extent that the power of attorney expressly continues, in whole or in part, the supported decision making agreement.

(b) The court may enter an order under subsection (a)(4), (a)(5), and (a)(6) only after notice and a hearing to the adult and all supporters named in the agreement.

**Sec. 10.** A supported decision making agreement that complies with section 7 of this chapter is presumed valid. A party may rely on the presumption of validity unless the party has actual





knowledge that the supported decision making agreement was not validly executed.

**Sec. 11. (a)** Except as provided in subsection (c), a person who, in good faith, relies on an authorization in a supported decision making agreement or who, in good faith, declines to honor an authorization in a supported decision making agreement is not subject to civil or criminal liability or to discipline for unprofessional conduct.

**(b)** Except as provided in subsection (c), a supporter who performs supported decision making in good faith as specified in a supported decision making agreement is immune from civil or criminal liability resulting from the adult's decision.

**(c)** This section does not apply to a person whose act or omission amounts to fraud, misrepresentation, recklessness, or willful or wanton misconduct.

**Sec. 12.** The meaning and effect of a supported decision making agreement is determined by the law of the jurisdiction in which the supported decision making agreement was executed, unless the supported decision making agreement provides otherwise.

**Sec. 13. A person who:**

- (1)** receives a copy of a supported decision making agreement;
- or
- (2)** is aware of the existence of a supported decision making agreement;

and reasonably believes that an adult is being abused, neglected, or exploited must report the alleged abuse, neglect, or exploitation to adult protective services or another authorized law enforcement agency.

SECTION 5. IC 34-30-2-126.8 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2019]: **Sec. 126.8. IC 29-3-14-11 (Concerning supported decision making agreements).**



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President of the Senate

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President Pro Tempore

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Speaker of the House of Representatives

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Governor of the State of Indiana

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

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