#### SECOND REGULAR SESSION

#### HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

## **HOUSE BILL NO. 1553**

### 99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

4096H.03C

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

#### AN ACT

To repeal sections 473.730, 473.770, 473.771, 475.010, 475.016, 475.050, 475.060, 475.061, 475.062, 475.075, 475.078, 475.079, 475.080, 475.082, 475.083, 475.094, 475.120, 475.123, 475.125, 475.130, 475.145, 475.230, 475.270, 475.276, 475.290, 475.322, 475.355, and 630.005, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof thirty-five new sections relating to guardianship proceedings.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 473.730, 473.770, 473.771, 475.010, 475.016, 475.050, 475.060,

- 2 475.061, 475.062, 475.075, 475.078, 475.079, 475.080, 475.082, 475.083, 475.094, 475.120,
- 3 475.123, 475.125, 475.130, 475.145, 475.230, 475.270, 475.276, 475.290, 475.322, 475.355, and
- 4 630.005, RSMo, are repealed and thirty-five new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known
- 5 as sections 473.730, 473.770, 473.771, 475.010, 475.016, 475.050, 475.060, 475.061, 475.062,
- 6 475.075, 475.078, 475.079, 475.080, 475.082, 475.083, 475.094, 475.120, 475.123, 475.125,
- 7 475.130, 475.145, 475.230, 475.270, 475.276, 475.290, 475.322, 475.341, 475.342, 475.343,
- 8 475.344, 475.355, 475.357, 475.359, 475.361, and 630.005, to read as follows:
  - 473.730. 1. Every county in this state, except the City of St. Louis, shall elect a public
- 2 administrator at the general election in the year 1880, and every four years thereafter, who shall
- 3 be ex officio public guardian and conservator in and for the public administrator's county. A
- 4 candidate for public administrator shall be at least twenty-one years of age and a resident of the
- 5 state of Missouri and the county in which he or she is a candidate for at least one year prior to
- 6 the date of the general election for such office. The candidate shall also be a registered voter and
- 7 shall be current in the payment of all personal and business taxes. Each candidate for public
- 8 administrator shall provide to the election authority a copy of a signed affidavit from a surety
- 9 company, indicating that the candidate meets the bond requirements for the office of public

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

administrator under this section. The secretary of state shall notify each election authority of the requirements of this section. The secretary of state will provide the necessary forms to assure compliance of the requirements of this section.

- 2. Before entering on the duties of the public administrator's office, the public administrator shall take the oath required by the constitution, and enter into bond to the state of Missouri in a sum not less than ten thousand dollars, with one or more securities, approved by the court and conditioned that the public administrator will faithfully discharge all the duties of the public administrator's office, which bond shall be given and oath of office taken on or before the first day of January following the public administrator's election, and it shall be the duty of the judge of the court to require the public administrator to make a statement annually, under oath, of the amount of property in the public administrator's hands or under the public administrator's control as such administrator, for the purpose of ascertaining the amount of bond necessary to secure such property; and such court may from time to time, as occasion shall require, demand additional security of such administrator, and, in default of giving the same within twenty days after such demand, may remove the administrator and appoint another.
- 3. The public administrator in all counties, in the performance of the duties required by chapters 473, 474, and 475, is a public officer. The duties specified by [section] sections 475.120, 475.343, and 475.359 are discretionary. The county shall defend and indemnify the public administrator against any alleged breach of duty, provided that any such alleged breach of duty arose out of an act or omission occurring within the scope of duty or employment.
- 4. After January 1, 2001, all salaried public administrators shall be considered county officials for purposes of section 50.333, subject to the minimum salary requirements set forth in section 473.742.
- 5. The public administrator for the City of St. Louis shall be appointed by a majority of the circuit judges and associate circuit judges of the twenty-second judicial circuit, en banc. Such public administrator shall meet the same qualifications and requirements specified in subsection 1 of this section for elected public administrators. The elected public administrator holding office on August 28, 2013, shall continue to hold such office for the remainder of his or her term.
- 473.770. 1. Whenever, in the judgment of any public administrator in any county of the first class, it is necessary for the proper and efficient conduct of the business of the public administrator's office that the public administrator appoint any deputies to assist the public administrator in the performance of his or her official duties as public administrator or as executor, administrator, personal representative, guardian, or conservator in any estates wherein the public administrator has been specially appointed, the public administrator may appoint one or more deputies to assist him or her in the performance of his or her duties as public

- administrator and as executor, administrator, personal representative, guardian, or conservator in the estates wherein the public administrator has been specially appointed. The appointment shall be in writing and shall be filed with the court, and, upon the filing, the court shall issue under its seal a certificate of the appointment for each deputy, stating that the appointee is vested with the powers and duties conferred by this section. The certificate shall be valid for one year from date, unless terminated prior thereto, and shall be renewed from year to year as long as the appointment remains in force, and may be taken as evidence of the authority of the deputy. The appointment and authority of any deputy may at any time be terminated by the public administrator by notice of the termination filed in the court, and upon termination the deputy shall surrender the public administrator's certificate of appointment.
  - 2. In all counties of the first classification not having a charter form of government and containing a portion of a city having a population of three hundred thousand or more inhabitants, the compensation of each such deputy shall be set by the public administrator, with the approval of the governing body of the county, and shall be paid in equal monthly installments out of the county treasury. In all other counties of the first classification the compensation of each such deputy shall be prescribed and paid by the public administrator out of the fees to which he or she is legally entitled, and no part of such compensation shall be paid out of any public funds or assessed as costs or allowed in any estate.
  - 3. Each deputy so appointed shall be authorized to perform such ministerial and nondiscretionary duties as may be delegated to him or her by the public administrator, including:
  - (1) Assembling, taking into possession, and listing moneys, checks, notes, stocks, bonds and other securities, and all other personal property of any and all estates in the charge of the public administrator;
  - (2) Depositing all moneys, checks, and other instruments for the payment of money in the bank accounts maintained by the public administrator for the deposit of such funds;
  - (3) Signing or countersigning any and all checks and other instruments for the payment of moneys out of such bank accounts, in pursuance of general authorization by the public administrator to the bank in which the same are deposited, as long as such authorization remains in effect;
  - (4) Entering the safe deposit box of any person or decedent whose estate is in the charge of the public administrator and any safe deposit box maintained by the public administrator for the safekeeping of assets in his or her charge, as a deputy of the public administrator, pursuant to general authorization given by the public administrator to the bank or safe deposit company in charge of any such safe deposit box, as long as such deputy-authorization remains in effect, and withdrawing therefrom and depositing therein such assets as may be determined by the public administrator. The bank or safe deposit company shall not be charged with notice or

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knowledge or any limitation of authority of the authorized deputy, unless specially notified in writing thereof by the public administrator, and may allow the deputy access to the safe deposit box, in the absence of notice, to the full extent allowable to the public administrator in person.

- 4. The enumeration of the foregoing powers shall not operate as an exclusion of any powers not specifically conferred. No authorized deputy shall exercise any power, other than as prescribed in this section, which shall require the exercise of a discretion enjoined by law to be exercised personally by the executor, administrator, personal representative, guardian, or conservator in charge of the estate to which the discretionary power refers.
- 5. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections 3 and 4 of this section to the contrary, a public administrator in a county of the first classification having a charter form of government and containing all or part of a city with a population of at least three hundred thousand inhabitants, and a public administrator in any county of the first classification may delegate to any deputy appointed by the public administrator any of the duties of the public administrator enumerated in section 473.743, and sections 475.120 [and], 475.130, 475.343, and 475.359. Such public administrator may also delegate to a deputy who is a licensed attorney the authority to execute inventories, settlements, surety bonds, pleadings and other documents filed in any court in the name of the public administrator, and the same shall have the force and effect as if executed by the public administrator.

473.771. 1. Whenever, in the judgment of any public administrator in any county which is not a county of the first classification, it is necessary for the proper and efficient conduct of 2 the business of his or her office that the public administrator appoint a deputy to assist the public 3 administrator in the performance of his or her official duties as public administrator or as executor, administrator, personal representative, guardian, or conservator in any estates wherein the public administrator has been specially appointed, the public administrator may appoint a deputy to assist him or her in the performance of his or her duties as public administrator and as 7 executor, administrator, personal representative, guardian, or conservator in the estates wherein the public administrator has been specially appointed. The appointment shall be in writing and 10 shall be filed with the court, and, upon the filing, the court shall issue under its seal a certificate 11 of the appointment for the deputy, stating that the appointee is vested with the powers and duties 12 conferred by this section. The certificate shall be valid for one year from the date, unless terminated prior thereto, and shall be renewed from year to year as long as the appointment 14 remains in force, and may be taken as evidence of the authority of the deputy. The appointment and authority of a deputy may at any time be terminated by the public administrator by notice of 16 the termination filed in the court, and upon termination the deputy shall surrender his or her 17 certificate of appointment.

2. The compensation of a deputy appointed pursuant to the provisions of this section shall be prescribed and paid by the public administrator out of the fees to which he or she is legally entitled.

- 3. A deputy appointed pursuant to the provisions of this section shall be authorized to perform such ministerial and nondiscretionary duties as may be delegated to him or her by the public administrator, including:
- (1) Assembling, taking into possession, and listing moneys, checks, notes, stocks, bonds and other securities, and all other personal property of any and all estates in the charge of the public administrator;
- (2) Depositing all moneys, checks, and other instruments for the payment of money in the bank accounts maintained by the public administrator for the deposit of such funds;
- (3) Signing or countersigning any and all checks and other instruments for the payment of moneys out of such bank accounts, in pursuance of general authorization by the public administrator to the bank in which the same are deposited, as long as such authorization remains in effect;
- (4) Entering the safe deposit box of any person or decedent whose estate is in the charge of the public administrator and any safe deposit box maintained by the public administrator for the safekeeping of assets in his or her charge, as a deputy of the public administrator, pursuant to general authorization given by the public administrator to the bank or safe deposit company in charge of any such safe deposit box, as long as such authorization as a deputy remains in effect, and withdrawing therefrom and depositing therein such assets as may be determined by the public administrator. The bank or safe deposit company shall not be charged with notice or knowledge or any limitation of authority of the authorized deputy, unless specially notified in writing thereof by the public administrator, and may allow the deputy access to the safe deposit box, in the absence of notice, to the full extent allowable to the public administrator in person.
- 4. The enumeration of the foregoing powers shall not operate as an exclusion of any powers not specifically conferred. No authorized deputy shall exercise any power, other than as prescribed in this section, which shall require the exercise of a discretion enjoined by law to be exercised personally by the executor, administrator, personal representative, guardian, or conservator in charge of the estate to which the discretionary power refers.
- 5. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections 3 and 4 of this section to the contrary, a public administrator in a county which is not a county of the first classification may delegate to any deputy appointed by the public administrator any of the duties of the public administrator enumerated in section 473.743, and sections 475.120 [and], 475.130, 475.343, and 475.359. Such public administrator may also delegate to a deputy who is a licensed attorney the authority to execute inventories, settlements, surety bonds, pleadings, and other documents filed in any

court in the name of the public administrator, and the same shall have the force and effect as if executed by the public administrator.

475.010. When used in this chapter, unless otherwise apparent from the context, the following terms mean:

- (1) "Adult", a person who has reached the age of eighteen years;
- (2) "Claims", liabilities of the protectee arising in contract, in tort or otherwise, before or after the appointment of a conservator, and liabilities of the estate which arise at or after the adjudication of disability or after the appointment of a conservator of the estate, including expenses of the adjudication and of administration. The term does not include demands or disputes regarding title of the protectee to specific assets alleged to be included in the estate;
- (3) "Conservator", one appointed by a court to have the care and custody of the estate of a minor or a disabled person. A "limited conservator" is one whose duties or powers are limited. The term "conservator", as used in this chapter, includes limited conservator unless otherwise specified or apparent from the context;
- (4) "Conservator ad litem", one appointed by the court in which particular litigation is pending regarding the management of financial resources on behalf of a minor, a disabled person, or an unborn person in that particular proceeding or as otherwise specified in this code;
- (5) "Custodial parent", the parent of a minor who has been awarded sole or joint physical custody of such minor, or the parent of an incapacitated person who has been appointed as guardian of such person, by an order or judgment of a court of this state or of another state or territory of the United States, or if there is no such order or judgment, the parent with whom the minor or incapacitated person primarily resides;
  - [(5)] (6) "Disabled" or "disabled person", one who is:
- (a) Unable by reason of any physical [or], mental, or cognitive condition to receive and evaluate information or to communicate decisions to such an extent that the person lacks ability to manage [his] the person's financial resources; or
- (b) The term "disabled" or "disabled person", as used in this chapter includes the terms partially disabled or partially disabled person unless otherwise specified or apparent from the context;
- [(6)] (7) "Eligible person" or "qualified person", a natural person, social service agency, corporation or national or state banking organization qualified to act as guardian of the person or conservator of the estate pursuant to the provisions of section 475.055;
- [(7)] (8) "Guardian", one appointed by a court to have the care and custody of the person of a minor or of an incapacitated person. A "limited guardian" is one whose duties or powers are limited. A "standby guardian" is one approved by the court to temporarily assume the duties

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of guardian of a minor or of an incapacitated person under section 475.046. The term guardian", as used in this chapter, includes limited guardian and standby guardian unless otherwise specified or apparent from the context;

[(8)] (9) "Guardian ad litem", one appointed by a court, in which particular litigation is pending[, to represent] on behalf of a minor, an incapacitated person, a disabled person, or an unborn person in that particular proceeding or as otherwise specified in this code;

[(9)] (10) "Habilitation", [instruction, training, guidance or treatment designed to enable and encourage a intellectually disabled or developmentally disabled person as defined in chapter 630 to acquire and maintain those life skills needed to cope more effectively with the demands of his or her own person and of his or her environment] a process of treatment, training, care, or specialized attention that seeks to enhance and maximize the ability of a person with an intellectual disability or a developmental disability to cope with the environment and to live as determined by the person as much as possible, as is appropriate for the person considering his or her physical and mental condition and financial means;

[(10)] (11) "Incapacitated person", one who is unable by reason of any physical [or], mental, or cognitive condition to receive and evaluate information or to communicate decisions to such an extent that [he or she] the person, even with appropriate services and assistive technology, lacks capacity to [meet] manage the person's essential requirements for food, clothing, shelter, safety or other care such that serious physical injury, illness, or disease is likely to occur. The term "incapacitated person" as used in this chapter includes the term partially incapacitated person unless otherwise specified or apparent from the context;

(12) "Interested persons", spouses, children, parents, adult members of a ward's or protectee's family, creditors or any others having a property right or claim against the estate of a protectee being administered, trustees of a trust of which the ward or protectee is a beneficiary, agents of a durable power of attorney for a ward or protectee, and children of a protectee who may have a property right or claim against or an interest in the estate of a protectee. This meaning may vary at different stages and different parts of a proceeding and shall be determined according to the particular purpose and matter involved;

[(11)] (13) "Least restrictive [environment] alternative", [that there shall be imposed on the personal liberty of the ward only such restraint as is necessary to prevent the ward from injuring himself or herself and others and to provide the ward with such care, habilitation and treatment as are appropriate for the ward considering his or her physical and mental condition and financial means] with respect to the guardianship order and the exercise of power by the guardian, a course of action or an alternative that allows the incapacitated person to live, learn, and work with minimum restrictions on the person, as are appropriate for the

person considering his or her physical and mental condition and financial means. "Least restrictive alternative" also means choosing the decision or approach that:

- (a) Places the least possible restriction on the person's personal liberty and exercise or rights and that promotes the greatest possible inclusion of the person into his or her community, as is appropriate for the person considering his or her physical and mental condition and financial means; and
- (b) Is consistent with meeting the person's essential requirements for health, safety, habilitation, treatment, and recovery and protecting the person from abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation;
- [(12)] (14) "Manage financial resources", either those actions necessary to obtain, administer, and dispose of real and personal property, intangible property, business property, benefits, income or any assets, or those actions necessary to prevent waste, loss or dissipation of property, or those actions necessary to provide for the care and support of such person or anyone legally dependent upon such person by a person of ordinary skills and intelligence commensurate with his or her training and education;
  - [(13)] (15) "Minor", any person who is under the age of eighteen years;
- [(14)] (16) "Parent", the biological or adoptive mother or father of a child whose parental rights have not been terminated under chapter 211, including:
- (a) A person registered as the father of the child by reason of an unrevoked notice of intent to claim paternity under section 192.016;
- (b) A person who has acknowledged paternity of the child and has not rescinded that acknowledgment under section 193.215; and
  - (c) A person presumed to be the natural father of the child under section 210.822;
- [(15)] (17) "Partially disabled person", one who is unable by reason of any physical [or], mental, or cognitive condition to receive and evaluate information or to communicate decisions to such an extent that such person lacks capacity to manage, in part, his or her financial resources;
- [<del>01</del>] (18) "Partially incapacitated person", one who is unable by reason of any physical [<del>01</del>], mental, **or cognitive** condition to receive and evaluate information or to communicate decisions to the extent that such person lacks capacity to meet, in part, essential requirements for food, clothing, shelter, safety, or other care without court-ordered assistance;
- [(17)] (19) "Protectee", a person for whose estate a conservator or limited conservator has been appointed or with respect to whose estate a transaction has been authorized by the court under section 475.092 without appointment of a conservator or limited conservator;
- 105 [(18)] (20) "Seriously ill", a significant likelihood that a person will become 106 incapacitated or die within twelve months;

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[(19)] (21) "Social service agency", a charitable organization organized and incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation under the laws of this state and which qualifies as an exempt organization within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3), or any successor provision thereto of the federal Internal Revenue Code;

[(20)] (22) "Standby guardian", one who is authorized to have the temporary care and custody of the person of a minor or of an incapacitated person under the provisions of section 475.046;

114 [(21)] (23) "Treatment", the prevention, amelioration or cure of a person's physical and mental illnesses or incapacities;

[(22)] (24) "Ward", a minor or an incapacitated person for whom a guardian, limited guardian, or standby guardian has been appointed.

475.016. **1.** If there has been an adjudication of incompetency before September 28, 1983, any person so adjudicated shall be deemed totally incapacitated and totally disabled as defined in section 475.010, until such time as the probate division of the circuit court of the county of proper venue, upon the annual review proceeding prescribed by section 475.082 or otherwise, may review the nature of the incapacity or disability of the person so adjudicated and alter the nature of the adjudication if, as a consequence of the review, it appears to the court that the person is not both totally incapacitated and totally disabled as defined in section 475.010. A guardian of the person appointed before September 28, 1983, shall be deemed a guardian as defined in section 475.010. A guardian of the estate appointed before September 28, 1983, shall be deemed a conservator as defined in section 475.010.

# 2. Existing guardians and conservators shall have one year after August 28, 2018, to meet any annual and other reporting requirements that are different from the former requirements of chapter 475 prior to August 28, 2018.

475.050. 1. Before appointing any other eligible person as guardian of an incapacitated person, or conservator of a disabled person, the court shall consider the suitability of appointing any of the following persons who appear to be willing to serve:

- (1) If the incapacitated or disabled person is, at the time of the hearing, able to make and communicate a reasonable choice, any eligible person nominated by the person;
- (2) Any eligible person nominated in a durable power of attorney executed by the incapacitated or disabled person, or in an instrument in writing signed by the incapacitated or disabled person and by two witnesses who signed at the incapacitated or disabled person's request, before the inception of the person's incapacity or disability, at a time within five years before the hearing when the person was able to make and communicate a reasonable choice;
- 11 (3) The spouse, parents, adult children, adult brothers and sisters and other close adult relatives of the incapacitated or disabled person;

- 13 (4) Any other eligible person or, with respect to the estate only, any eligible organization 14 or corporation, nominated in a duly probated will of such a spouse or relative [executed within 15 five years before the hearing].
  - 2. Except for good cause shown, the court shall make its appointment in accordance with the incapacitated or disabled person's most recent valid nomination of an eligible person qualified to serve as guardian of the person or conservator of the estate. [In the event there is not brought to the attention of the court any such valid nomination executed within five years before the hearing, then the court shall give consideration to the most recent valid nomination brought to its attention, but the court shall not be required to follow such nomination.]
  - 3. The court shall require all guardians and conservators who are seeking appointment and who have a fiduciary responsibility to a ward, an incapacitated person, or a disabled person, as those terms are defined in section 475.010, to submit at their own expense to a credit history investigation and a background screening that shall include the disqualification lists of the departments of mental health, social services, and health and senior services; the abuse and neglect registries for adults and children; a Missouri criminal record review; and the sexual offender registry. The nominated guardian or conservator shall file the results of the reports with the court at least ten days prior to the appointment hearing date unless waived or modified by the court for good cause shown by an affidavit filed simultaneously with the petition for appointment or in the event the protected person requests an expedited hearing.
  - 4. An order appointing a guardian or conservator shall not be signed by the judge until such reports have been filed with the court and reviewed by the judge, who shall consider the reports in determining whether to appoint a guardian or conservator. Such reports, or lack thereof, shall be certified either by an affidavit or by obtaining a certified copy of the reports. No reports or national criminal history record check shall be required by the court upon the application of a petitioner for an emergency temporary guardianship or emergency temporary conservatorship. The court may waive the requirements of this subsection for good cause shown. If appointed, a guardian or conservator may petition the court for reimbursement of the reasonable expenses of the credit history investigation and background screenings.
  - 475.060. 1. Any person may file a petition for the appointment of himself or herself or some other qualified person as guardian of a minor. Such petition shall state:
- 3 (1) The name, age, domicile, actual place of residence and post office address of the 4 minor if known and if any of these facts is unknown, the efforts made to ascertain that fact;
- 5 (2) The estimated value of the minor's real and personal property, and the location and value of any real property owned by the minor outside of this state;

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- 7 (3) If the minor has no domicile or place of residence in this state, the county in which 8 the property or major part thereof of the minor is located;
- 9 (4) The name and address of the parents of the minor and whether they are living or 10 dead;
  - (5) The name and address of the spouse, and the names, ages and addresses of all living children of the minor;
- 13 (6) The name and address of the person having custody of the person of the minor or 14 who claims to have custody of the person of the minor;
  - (7) The name and address of any guardian of the person or conservator of the estate of the minor appointed in this or any other state;
  - (8) If appointment is sought for a natural person, other than the public administrator, the names and addresses of wards and disabled persons for whom such person is already guardian or conservator;
  - (9) The name and address of the trustees and the purpose of any trust of which the minor is a qualified beneficiary;
    - (10) The reasons why the appointment of a guardian is sought;
  - (11) A petition for the appointment of a guardian of a minor may be filed for the sole and specific purpose of school registration or medical insurance coverage. Such a petition shall clearly set out this limited request and shall not be combined with a petition for conservatorship;
  - (12) If the petitioner suggests the appointment of co-guardians, a statement of the reasons why such appointment is sought and whether the petitioner suggests that the co-guardians, if appointed, may act independently or whether they may act only together or only together with regard to specified matters;
  - (13) That written consent has been obtained from any person, including a public administrator, who is to be appointed as a co-guardian; and
  - (14) Whether the petitioner knows of any other court having jurisdiction over the minor and the name of the court, if known.
  - 2. Any person may file a petition for the appointment of himself or herself or some other qualified person as guardian **or limited guardian** of an incapacitated person. Such petition shall state:
  - (1) If known, the name, age, domicile, actual place of residence, and post office address of the alleged incapacitated person, and for the period of three years before the filing of the petition, the most recent addresses, up to three, at which the alleged incapacitated person lived prior to the most recent address, and if any of these facts is unknown, the efforts made to ascertain that fact. In the case of a petition filed by a public official in his or her official capacity,

the information required by this subdivision need only be supplied to the extent it is reasonably available to the petitioner;

- (2) The estimated value of the alleged incapacitated person's real and personal property, and the location and value of any real property owned by the alleged incapacitated person outside of this state;
- (3) If the alleged incapacitated person has no domicile or place of residence in this state, the county in which the property or major part thereof of the alleged incapacitated person is located;
- (4) The name and address of the parents of the alleged incapacitated person and whether they are living or dead;
- (5) The name and address of the spouse, the names, ages, and addresses of all living children of the alleged incapacitated person, the names and addresses of the alleged incapacitated person's closest known relatives, and the names and relationship, if known, of any adults living with the alleged incapacitated person; if no spouse, adult child, or parent is listed, the names and addresses of the siblings and children of deceased siblings of the alleged incapacitated person; the name and address of any agent appointed by the alleged incapacitated person in any durable power of attorney, and of the presently acting trustees of any trust of which the alleged incapacitated person is the grantor or is a qualified beneficiary or is or was the trustee or cotrustee and the purpose of the power of attorney or trust;
- (6) The name and address of the person having custody of the person of the alleged incapacitated person;
- (7) The name and address of any guardian of the person or conservator of the estate of the alleged incapacitated person appointed in this or any other state;
- (8) If appointment is sought for a natural person, other than the public administrator, the names and addresses of wards and [disabled persons] protectees for whom such person is already guardian or conservator;
- (9) The [factual basis for the petitioner's conclusion that the person for whom guardianship is sought is unable or partially unable by reason of some specified physical [or], mental, or cognitive condition to receive and evaluate information or to communicate decisions to such an extent that the person lacks capacity to meet essential requirements for food, clothing, shelter, safety, or other care such that serious physical injury, illness, or disease is likely to occur;
- (10) The reasons, incidents, and specific behaviors demonstrating why the appointment of a guardian or limited guardian is sought;
- (11) If the petitioner suggests the appointment of co-guardians, a statement of the reasons why such appointment is sought and whether the petitioner suggests that the

co-guardians, if appointed, may act independently or whether they may act only together
 or only together with regard to specified matters; and

- (12) Written consent has been obtained from any person, including a public administrator, who is to be appointed as a co-guardian.
- 3. If the person filing the petition seeks the appointment of an emergency guardian, the petition shall include the same requirements as provided in subsection 1 of this section or shall have a separate count and shall request the appointment per the requirements provided in subsection 11 of section 475.075.
- 475.061. 1. Any person may file a petition in the probate division of the circuit court of the county of proper venue for the appointment of himself **or herself** or some other qualified person as conservator of the estate of a minor or disabled person. The petition shall contain the same allegations as are set forth in subdivisions (1), (8), and (10) of subsection 2 of section 475.060 with respect to the appointment of a guardian for an incapacitated person and, in addition thereto, an allegation that the respondent is unable by reason of some specific physical or [mental] cognitive condition to receive and evaluate information or to communicate decisions to such an extent that the respondent lacks ability to manage his financial resources or that the respondent is under the age of eighteen years.
  - 2. A petition for appointment of a conservator or limited conservator of the estate may be combined with a petition for appointment of a guardian or limited guardian of the person. In such a combined petition allegations need not be repeated.
  - 475.062. 1. [When a petition for appointment of a conservator of the estate of an alleged disabled person is made by said person, or said person's consent to the appointment sought is endorsed on the petition or filed with it, the court, after appointment of counsel for the alleged disabled person, if satisfied, by interview with the alleged disabled person or otherwise, that the alleged disability does exist, that the disabled person wishes the appointment and has capacity to understand the need for it and make a reasonable choice of conservator and that the person nominated as conservator is suitable, qualified and has or will accept the appointment, may, without notice or hearing, appoint as conservator of the estate, the person, organization or corporation designated by the disabled person. If it appears that the alleged disabled person is a codepositor or cotenant, the other codepositors and cotenants shall, in any event, be given notice before the court acts.
  - 2.] When a petition for appointment of a conservator of the estate of an alleged disabled person is not made or consented to by said alleged disabled person, the procedures as to notice, appointment of counsel, hearing and adjudication of disability as prescribed by section 475.075 shall be followed.

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2. If a petition for appointment of a conservator is made by a person on account of that person's alleged disability or is made by another on behalf of that person with that person's consent endorsed on the petition or filed therewith, the court shall first appoint counsel for that person. The court-appointed attorney shall advise the respondent of the respondent's rights and of the consequences of the appointment of the conservator.

- 3. If the court determines that the disability exists and the respondent desires the appointment, understands its purpose, and makes a reasonable choice of conservator, the court may, without notice or hearing, appoint the person, organization, or corporation designated by the respondent as conservator of the respondent's estate, provided that the conservator is suitable and qualified and has accepted or will accept the appointment.
- 4. If it appears that the respondent is a codepositor or cotenant, the other codepositors and cotenants shall, in any event, be given notice before the court acts.
- [3.] 5. If the whereabouts of a person alleged to be disappeared or detained pursuant to section 475.081 is unknown or the place or nature of his confinement or detention prevents personal service, service shall be made on him by publication in accordance with the rules of civil procedure.
- 475.075. 1. Except as otherwise provided in section 475.062, when a petition for the appointment of a guardian ad litem, guardian, or conservator [against] for any [person] potential ward or protectee, [hereinafter] who is then referred to as the respondent, is filed under this chapter on grounds other than minority, the court, if satisfied that there is good cause for the exercise of its [jurisdiction] authority, shall promptly set the petition for hearing.
- 2. The respondent shall be served in person with the following: A copy of the petition; a written notice stating the time and place the proceeding will be heard by the court, the name and address of appointed counsel, and the names and addresses of the witnesses who may be called to testify in support of the petition; and with a copy of the respondent's rights as set forth in subsections 7 and 8 of this section. The notice shall be signed by the judge or clerk of the court and served in person on the respondent a reasonable time before the date set for the hearing. [The petition shall state the names and addresses of the] A written notice stating the time and place for the petition to be heard by the court, and the name and address of counsel appointed to represent the respondent shall be served upon the spouse, parents, children who have reached the age of eighteen, any person serving as [his] the respondent's guardian, conservator, limited guardian, or limited conservator, any person proposed to serve as guardian or conservator, any person having power to act in a fiduciary capacity with respect to any of the respondent's financial resources, [and] any person having [his] the respondent's care and custody known to the petitioner, and any cotenants or codepositors with the respondent. Each person so listed shall be served [with like notice] in any manner permitted

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- by section 472.100. If no such spouse, parent, or child is known, notice shall be given to at least one of [his] the respondent's closest relatives who [has] have reached the age of eighteen.
  - 3. Upon the filing of a petition under the provisions of subsection 1 of this section or for the approval on behalf of the respondent of a transaction pursuant to section 475.092 or for the rendition of emergency medical treatment under the provisions of section 475.123, the court shall immediately appoint an attorney to represent the respondent in the proceeding. The attorney shall visit [his client] the respondent at least twenty-four hours prior to the hearing unless the court finds good cause for waiving this requirement. If the [elient] attorney finds that the respondent is capable of understanding the matter in question or of contributing to the advancement of the [elient's] respondent's interest, the attorney shall obtain from the [elient] respondent all possible aid. If the [disability of a client compels the attorney to make decisions for the client,] attorney finds that the respondent is so impaired that the respondent cannot communicate or participate in the proceedings, the attorney shall consider all circumstances then prevailing and act with care to safeguard and advance the interests of the [elient] respondent.
  - 4. If the court enters an order appointing an attorney for the respondent, it shall specify that the attorney shall have the right to obtain all medical and financial information of the respondent from medical care providers and financial institutions, and no medical care provider or financial institution shall be liable for damages or otherwise for the release of this information to the attorney appointed for the respondent. The court shall allow a reasonable attorney's fee for the services rendered, to be taxed as costs of the proceeding. Upon entry of appearance by private counsel on behalf of the respondent, the court may permit the court-appointed attorney [may be permitted] to withdraw [if the respondent employs private counsel who enters an appearance on behalf of said person only if after a hearing the court finds cause to permit the withdrawal. The private counsel shall meet the requirements of the court-appointed attorney in representing the respondent as provided in subsections 2 and 3 of this section. The respondent's attorney shall not also serve as guardian ad litem or conservator ad litem for the respondent unless and until a judgment granting guardianship, conservatorship, limited guardianship, or limited conservatorship has been entered by the court. If the attorney for the respondent has filed or intends to file an appeal of such judgment, the attorney for the respondent shall not serve as guardian ad litem or conservator ad litem for the respondent until all proceedings in connection with such appeal have been finally resolved. The petitioner shall not nominate an attorney for the respondent.
  - [4-] 5. The court may direct that the respondent be examined by a physician [or], licensed psychologist, or other appropriate professional [designated by the court, and may allow

a reasonable fee for the services rendered, to be taxed as costs in the proceeding] if the other professional has experience or training in the alleged mental, physical, or cognitive impairment. The court-appointed physician, licensed psychologist, or other professional shall, prior to examination, explain to the respondent in simple language, the following:

- (1) [Incapacity or disability as defined in section 475.010;
- 62 (2) That the purpose of the examination is to produce evidence which may be used to determine whether the respondent is incapacitated, disabled [or], partially incapacitated, or partially disabled;
  - $[\frac{3}{2}]$  (2) That respondent has the right to remain silent;
  - [(4)] (3) That anything respondent says may be used at the court hearing, and in making the determination of incapacity or disability.
  - [5.] 6. The court-appointed physician, licensed psychologist, or other professional shall submit [his] a report in writing to the court and to counsel for all parties. It shall not be a valid objection to the review of the report by the court or the attorneys for the parties that the court will be responsible for the ultimate determination of incapacity or partial incapacity. If other objections to the report are made by any party, the court may order a hearing for the limited purpose of determining whether the court shall admit the report. The court may allow a reasonable fee for the services rendered by the physician, licensed psychologist, or other professional to be taxed as costs in the proceeding.
  - [6-] 7. If prima facie proof of partial or complete incapacity or disability, with or without the court ordered evaluation as provided in subsections 4 and 5 of this section, is made upon motion by any party or the court on its own motion, a physician [97], licensed psychologist, or other appropriate professional is competent and may be compelled by the court to testify as to information acquired from the respondent, despite otherwise applicable testimonial privileges. Evidence received under this subsection [which] that would otherwise be privileged and confidential may not be used in any other civil action or criminal proceeding without the consent of the holder of the privilege. Any resulting report shall be shared with the respondent and counsel for all parties but shall not be used in any other civil action or criminal proceeding without the consent of the holder of the privilege.
  - [7.] **8.** The petitioner has the burden of proving incapacity, partial incapacity, disability, or partial disability by clear and convincing evidence.
  - [8.] 9. The respondent shall have the following rights in addition to those elsewhere specified and shall be advised of these rights by the attorney for the respondent:
    - (1) The right to be represented by an attorney;
    - (2) The right to have a jury trial;
  - (3) The right to present evidence in [his] the respondent's behalf;

- 93 (4) The right to cross-examine witnesses who testify against [him] the respondent;
- 94 (5) The right to remain silent;

- 95 (6) The right to have the hearing opened or closed to the public as [he] the respondent elects:
  - (7) The right to a hearing conducted in accordance with the rules of evidence in civil proceedings, except as modified by this chapter;
    - (8) The right to be present at the hearing;
    - (9) The right to appeal the court's decision.
  - [9-] 10. If the court finds that the respondent with such assistance possesses capacity to [meet his] manage the respondent's essential requirements for food, clothing, shelter, safety, and other care or that [he] the respondent possesses the ability to manage [his] the respondent's financial resources, [it] the court shall deny the petition. On the other hand, if the court finds that the capacity of the respondent to receive and evaluate information or to communicate decisions is impaired to such an extent as to render [him] the respondent incapable of [meeting] managing some or all of [his] the respondent's essential requirements for food, clothing, shelter, safety or other care so that serious physical injury, illness, or disease is likely to occur, or that the [ability] capacity of the respondent to receive and evaluate information or to communicate decisions is impaired to such an extent so as to render [him] the respondent unable to manage some or all of [his] the respondent's financial resources, [it shall make and recite in its order detailed findings of fact stating:
- (1) The extent of his physical and mental incapacity to care for his person;
- (2) The extent of his physical and mental disability to manage his financial resources;
- (3) Whether or not he requires placement in a supervised living situation and, if so, the degree of supervision needed;
  - (4) Whether or not his financial resources require supervision and, if so, the nature and extent of supervision needed the court shall appoint a guardian or limited guardian, a conservator or limited conservator, or both in combination.
  - [10.] 11. If the court finds the respondent to be in some degree incapacitated or disabled, or both, the court, in determining the degree of supervision necessary, shall apply the least restrictive [environment] alternative principle as defined in this chapter and shall not restrict [his] the respondent's personal liberty or [his] the respondent's freedom to manage [his] the respondent's financial resources to any greater extent than is necessary to protect [his] the respondent's person and [his] the respondent's financial resources. [The court shall consider whether or not the respondent may be fully protected by the rendition of temporary protective services provided by a private or public agency or agencies; or by the appointment of a guardian or conservator ad litem; or by the appointment of a limited guardian or conservator; or, as a last

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resort, by the appointment of a guardian or conservator.] The limitations imposed upon the authority of the guardian or conservator as set forth in the findings of the court shall be stated in the letters of the guardian or conservator and shall be set forth in the notice of first publication of letters of conservatorship granted.

- 12. Before appointing a guardian or conservator, the court shall consider whether the respondent's needs may be met without the necessity of the appointment of a guardian or conservator, or both, by a less restrictive alternative including, but not limited to, the following:
- (1) Evidence that the respondent has appointed an attorney-in-fact in a durable power of attorney executed by the respondent before the petition was filed;
- (2) The management of the beneficial interests of the respondent in a trust by a trustee;
- 141 (3) Evidence that a representative payee has been appointed to manage the 142 respondent's public benefits;
  - (4) Supported decision-making agreements or the provision of protective or supportive services or arrangements provided by individuals or public or private services or agencies;
    - (5) The use of appropriate services or assistive technology;
  - (6) The appointment of a temporary emergency guardian ad litem or conservator ad litem under subsection 14 of this section; or
    - (7) The appointment of a limited guardian or conservator.
  - 13. The court shall make and recite in its order detailed findings of fact stating:
- 151 (1) The extent of the respondent's physical, mental, and cognitive incapacity to 152 manage essential requirements for food, clothing, shelter, safety, or other care;
  - (2) The extent of the respondent's physical, mental, and cognitive incapacity to manage the respondent's financial resources;
  - (3) Whether the respondent requires placement in a supervised living situation and, if so, the degree of supervision needed;
- 157 (4) Whether the respondent's financial resources require supervision and, if so, the 158 nature and extent of supervision needed;
  - (5) Whether the respondent retains the right to vote;
  - (6) Whether the respondent is permitted to drive a motor vehicle if the respondent can pass the required driving test; and
    - (7) Whether the respondent retains the right to marry.
- [11.] 14. If it is alleged in a petition that an alleged incapacitated or disabled [person] respondent has no guardian or conservator and an emergency exists [which] that presents a

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165 substantial risk that serious physical harm will occur to [his] the respondent's person or 166 irreparable damage will occur to [his] the respondent's property because of [his] the **respondent's** failure or inability to provide for [his] the respondent's essential human needs or 167 168 to protect [his] the respondent's property, the court may, with notice to such person's attorney, 169 as provided in subsection 3 of this section, and service of notice upon such person as provided 170 in subsection 2 of this section, and, with or without notice to other persons interested in the proceeding, after hearing, appoint [a] an emergency guardian ad litem or conservator ad litem 172 for a specified period not to exceed [thirty] ninety days and for specified purposes. Except for 173 good cause shown, the court shall hold a hearing on petitions filed under this section within 174 five business days of the filing of the petition. Orders appointing the guardian or conservator ad litem may be modified upon motion and hearing. Only after a hearing and a showing of 176 continuing emergency need, [orders appointing the] the court may order the extension of the 177 appointment of an emergency guardian ad litem or conservator ad litem [may be extended] 178 from time to time, not to exceed [thirty] ninety days each. A guardian ad litem or conservator 179 ad litem may be removed at any time and shall make any report the court requires. Proceedings under this subsection shall not be employed as alternative to proceedings for the involuntary 180 detention and treatment of a mentally ill person under the provisions of chapter 632. If no petition for guardianship, conservatorship, limited guardianship, or limited 182 183 conservatorship has been filed within the first ninety days following the granting of 184 emergency authority under this section, the court may terminate the authority granted under the emergency letters upon motion of the attorney for the respondent and a finding 186 that doing so would not be manifestly contrary to the respondent's interest.

- 475.078. 1. An adjudication of partial incapacity or partial disability does not operate to impose upon the ward or protectee any legal disability provided by law except to the extent specified in the order of adjudication, provided that the court shall not impose upon the ward or protectee any legal disability other than those which are consistent with the condition of the ward or protectee.
- 2. An adjudication of incapacity or disability does operate to impose upon the ward or protectee all legal disabilities provided by law, except to the extent specified in the order of adjudication or otherwise in this chapter, and provided further that the court is without [jurisdiction] authority to impose any legal disability upon a disabled person for whom a conservator has been appointed by reason of [his] the person's disappearance, detention, or confinement.
- 12 3. A person who has been adjudicated incapacitated or disabled or both shall be 13 presumed to be incompetent, except as otherwise specified in this chapter. A person who has 14 been adjudicated partially incapacitated or partially disabled or both shall be presumed to be

15 competent. The court at any time after a hearing on the question may determine that an 16 incapacitated, disabled, or partially incapacitated or partially disabled person is incompetent for 17 some purposes and competent for other purposes.

- 4. The court may expressly enter an order that the ward's or protectee's right to vote shall be retained even though the ward or protectee is otherwise totally incapacitated; that the ward or protectee is permitted to drive a motor vehicle if the ward or protectee can pass the required driving test; or that the ward or protectee retains the right to marry.
- 475.079. 1. If it appears to the court [that a guardian should be appointed for a minor who is not incapacitated] or if it is found by the jury or the court upon proof by clear and convincing evidence that the person for whom a guardian is sought is incapacitated as defined in this law and that the respondent's identified needs cannot be met by a less restrictive alternative, the court may appoint a guardian of the person. [The appointment of guardians of minors shall be made in accordance with section 475.045, except that if a person entitled to appointment as a guardian or entitled to select a guardian fails to appear after notice or to apply for such appointment or make selection in accordance with the order of the court the court may appoint any suitable person as guardian.]
- 2. If it is found that the person for whom a conservator of the estate is sought is a minor or is disabled as defined in section 475.010 by a disability other than or in addition to minority and that the respondent's identified needs cannot be met by a less restrictive alternative, the court may appoint a conservator of the estate, who may be the same person appointed guardian of the person.
- 3. The court shall not appoint the public administrator to serve as guardian, limited guardian, conservator, limited conservator, emergency guardian, emergency conservator, guardian ad litem, or conservator ad litem unless notice is first given to the public administrator as provided in this section and the public administrator has an opportunity to participate in any hearing on such matter, including the right to cross-examine witnesses and to offer witnesses and evidence. The public administrator may waive notice and the opportunity to participate.

475.080. 1. If the court, after hearing, finds that a person is partially incapacitated and
that the respondent's identified needs cannot be met by a less restrictive alternative, the
court shall appoint a limited guardian of the person of the ward. The order of appointment shall
specify the powers and duties of the limited guardian so as to permit the partially incapacitated
ward to [eare for himself] provide for self-care commensurate with [his] the ward's ability to
do so and shall also specify the legal disabilities to which the ward is subject. In establishing a
limited guardianship, the court shall impose only such legal disabilities and restraints on personal
liberty as are necessary to promote and protect the well-being of the individual and shall design

9 the guardianship so as to encourage the development of maximum self-reliance and 10 independence in the individual.

- 2. If the court, after hearing, finds that a person is partially disabled **and that the respondent's identified needs cannot be met by a less restrictive alternative**, the court shall appoint a limited conservator of the estate. The order of appointment shall specify the powers and duties of the limited conservator so as to permit the partially disabled person to manage [his] the person's financial resources commensurate with [his] the person's ability to do so.
- 475.082. 1. At least annually, the court shall inquire into the status of every **adult** ward and protectee under its jurisdiction for the purpose of determining whether the incapacity or disability may have ceased **or changed** and to insure that the guardian or conservator is discharging [his] **the guardian's or conservator's** responsibilities and duties in accordance with this chapter.
- 2. In order to implement the court review prescribed by this section, the guardian or limited guardian shall file annually on the anniversary date of [his] the guardian's or limited guardian's letters[5] a report concerning the personal status of the adult ward and plans by the guardian or limited guardian for future care. Such report may be combined with the settlement of accounts if the guardian is also conservator of the estate of the ward. The report shall be in the form prescribed by the court and shall include the following information:
  - (1) The present address of the ward;
  - (2) The present address of the guardian;
- (3) Unless the report specifies that the ward is living with the guardian, the number of times the guardian has had contact with the ward, and the nature of such contacts including the date the ward was last seen by the guardian;
- (4) A summary of the guardian's visits with the ward and activities on the ward's behalf and the extent to which the ward has participated in decision-making;
- (5) If the ward is institutionalized, whether the guardian has received a copy of the treatment or habilitation plan and whether the guardian agrees with its provision;
- [(5)] (6) The date the ward was last seen by a physician **or other professional** and the purpose;
- [(6) Any major changes in the physical or mental condition of the ward observed by the guardian] (7) The current mental and physical condition of the ward and any major changes in the ward's condition since the last report;
- [(7)] (8) The opinion of the guardian as to the need for the continuation of the guardianship and whether it is necessary to increase or decrease the powers of the guardian;
- [(8) The opinion of the guardian as to the adequacy of the present care of the ward] (9) Educational, vocational, and other services provided to the ward; and

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(10) A summarized plan for the coming year, including short-term and long-term
 goals, and the extent to which the ward has participated in the development of the plan.
 If an individual support plan is in place, the guardian may submit such plan in lieu of the
 requirements of this subdivision.

- 3. The court may as part of its review, in its discretion, order the performance of a mental status evaluation of [an incapacitated] the ward and may require any hospital, physician, or custodial facility to submit copies of their records relating to the treatment, habilitation, or care of the ward. The court, as part of its review and in its discretion, may also contact the department of health and senior services or other appropriate agencies to investigate the conduct of the guardian and report its findings to the court.
- 4. If there is an indication that the incapacity or disability of the ward or protectee has ceased, the court shall appoint an attorney to file on behalf of the ward or protectee a petition for termination of the guardianship or conservatorship or for restoration.
- 5. If it appears to the court as part of its review or at any time upon motion of any interested person interested in the welfare of the ward, including the ward or protectee or some person on [his] the ward's behalf, that the guardian or conservator is not discharging [his] the guardian's or conservator's responsibilities and duties as required by this chapter or has not acted in the best interests of [his] the ward or protectee, the court may order that a hearing be held and direct that the guardian or conservator appear before the court. In the event that such a hearing is ordered and the ward or protectee is not represented by an attorney, the court shall appoint an attorney to represent the ward or protectee in the proceedings. At the conclusion of the hearing, if the court finds that the guardian [or conservator] is not discharging [his] the guardian's duties and responsibilities as required by this code[5] or is not acting in the best interests of the ward or protectee, the court shall enter such orders as it deems appropriate under the circumstances. Such orders may include the removal of the guardian [or conservator] and the appointment of a successor guardian or conservator or termination of the guardianship or conservatorship on finding that the ward has recovered [his] capacity or the protectee is no longer disabled. The court, in framing its orders and findings, shall give due consideration to the exercise by the guardian or conservator of any discretion vested in [him] the guardian or conservator by law.
  - 475.083. 1. The authority of a guardian or conservator terminates:
  - (1) When a minor ward becomes eighteen years of age;
- 3 (2) Upon an adjudication that an incapacitated or disabled person has been restored to 4 [his] capacity or ability;
  - (3) Upon revocation of the letters of the guardian or conservator;
- 6 (4) Upon the acceptance by the court of the resignation of the guardian or conservator;

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- 7 (5) Upon the death of the ward or protectee except that if there is no person other than 8 the estate of the ward or protectee liable for the funeral and burial expenses of the ward or 9 protectee the guardian or conservator may, with the approval of the court, contract for the funeral 10 and burial of the deceased ward or protectee;
  - (6) Upon the expiration of an order appointing a guardian or conservator ad litem unless the court orders extension of the appointment;
    - (7) Upon an order of court terminating the guardianship or conservatorship.
  - 2. A guardianship or conservatorship may be terminated by court order after such notice as the court may require:
    - (1) If the conservatorship estate is exhausted;
    - (2) If the conservatorship is no longer necessary for any other reason;
  - (3) If the court finds that a parent is fit, suitable and able to assume the duties of guardianship and it is in the best interest of the minor that the guardianship be terminated; or
  - (4) If the court determines that the guardian is unable to provide the services of a guardian due to the ward's absence from the state or other particular circumstances of the ward.
  - 3. Notwithstanding the termination of the authority of a conservator, [he] the conservator shall continue to have such authority as may be necessary to wind up [his] administration.
  - 4. At any time the guardian, conservator, or any person on behalf of the ward or protectee may, individually or jointly with the ward or protectee, or the ward or protectee individually may petition the court to restore the ward or protectee, [of] to decrease the powers of the guardian or conservator, or to return rights to the ward; except that, if the court determines that the petition is frivolous, the court may summarily dismiss the petition without hearing. The petition from the ward or protectee or on behalf of the ward or protectee may be an informal letter to the court. Anyone who interferes with the transmission of the ward's or protectee's letter or petition may be cited by the court for contempt after notice and hearing. If at any time the court, on its own motion, has reason to believe that the guardian's or conservator's powers should be increased or decreased or additional rights should be returned to the ward, the court shall set the matter for a hearing.
  - 5. Upon the filing of a joint petition by the guardian or conservator and the ward or protectee, the court, if it finds restoration or modification to be in the best interests of the ward or protectee, may summarily order restoration [or modification of the] or a decrease in powers of the guardian or conservator or return rights to the ward without the necessity of notice and hearing.

- 6. Upon the filing of a petition without the joinder of the guardian or conservator or if the court requires a hearing for a petition filed with the joinder of a guardian or conservator, the court shall cause the petition to be set for hearing with notice to the guardian or conservator and to such other persons as the court directs. The hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of section 475.075. If the ward or protectee is not represented by an attorney, the court shall appoint an attorney to represent the ward or protectee in such proceeding. The burden of proof by a preponderance of the evidence shall be upon the petitioner. Such a petition may not be filed more than once every one hundred eighty days.
- 7. At any time the guardian [of], limited guardian, conservator, or limited conservator may petition the court to increase [his] the guardian's or conservator's powers or to remove rights from the ward. Proceedings on the petition shall be in accordance with the provisions of section 475.075.
- 8. In deciding whether to terminate or modify a guardianship or conservatorship, the court may require a report by and consider the recommendations in the report of a physician, licensed psychologist, or other appropriate qualified professional who has experience or training in the alleged mental, physical, or cognitive impairment of the ward or protectee.

475.094. [If the court determines and enters a finding that a permanently totally mentally disabled protectee's estate would be substantially depleted upon his death by the payment of federal estate taxes, the court is hereby empowered: to exercise or release powers of appointment, to change the beneficiaries and elect options under insurance and annuity policies, to make gifts to the natural objects of the protectee's bounty, to convey or release his contingent and expectant interests in property including marital property rights and any right of survivorship incident to joint tenancy or tenancy by the entirety, to surrender insurance or annuity policies for their cash values, to exercise his right to an elective share in the estate of his deceased spouse, and to renounce any interest by testate or intestate succession or by inter vivos transfer, if such act or acts will not deplete the protectee's estate so as to impair the ability to provide for the protectee's foreseeable lifetime needs, and if such act will cause financial benefits to inure solely to the natural objects of the protectee's bounty. Such act shall be undertaken by the court only to the extent that it will result in a substantial saving of federal estate tax for the estate of the disabled protectee upon his death.] 1. After notice to interested persons and upon express authorization of the court, a conservator may:

(1) Make gifts that the protectee might have been expected to make including, but not limited to, gifts to qualify for government benefits or to reduce federal estate taxes;

- **(2)** Convey, release, or disclaim contingent and expectant interests in property, including marital property rights and any right of survivorship incident to joint tenancy or tenancy by the entireties;
  - (3) Exercise or release a power of appointment;
  - (4) Create a revocable or irrevocable trust of property of the estate, whether the trust extends beyond the duration of the conservatorship, or revoke or amend a trust revocable by the protected person;
  - (5) Exercise rights to elect options and change beneficiaries under insurance policies and annuities or surrender the policies and annuities for cash value;
  - (6) Exercise any right to an elective share in the estate of the protectee's deceased spouse and to renounce or disclaim any interest by testate or intestate succession or by transfer during lifetime.
  - 2. The court, in exercising or in approving a conservator's exercise of the powers listed under subsection 1 of this section, shall consider primarily the decision that the protectee would have made, to the extent that the decision can be ascertained. The court shall also consider:
  - (1) The financial needs of the protected person and the needs of individuals who are in fact dependent on the protectee for support and the interest of creditors;
    - (2) Possible reduction of income, estate, inheritance, or other tax liabilities;
  - (3) Eligibility for government assistance;
    - (4) The protectee's previous pattern of giving or level of support;
  - (5) The existing estate plan;
  - (6) The protectee's life expectancy and the probability that the conservatorship will terminate before the protectee's death; and
    - (7) Any other factors the court considers relevant.
  - 3. Without authorization of the court, a conservator shall not revoke or amend a durable power of attorney of which the protectee is the principal. If a durable power of attorney is in effect, absent a court order to the contrary, a decision of the agent takes precedence over that of a conservator.
  - 475.120. 1. The guardian of the person of a minor shall be entitled to the custody and control of the ward and shall provide for the ward's education, support, and maintenance.
  - 2. [A guardian or limited guardian of an incapacitated person shall act in the best interest of the ward. A limited guardian of an incapacitated person shall have the powers and duties enumerated by the court in the adjudication order or any later modifying order.
- 6 3. The general powers and duties of a guardian of an incapacitated person shall be to take charge of the person of the ward and to provide for the ward's care, treatment, habilitation,

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education, support and maintenance; and the powers and duties shall include, but not be limited to, the following: (1) Assure that the ward resides in the best and least restrictive setting reasonably 10 11 available: (2) Assure that the ward receives medical care and other services that are needed; 12 (3) Promote and protect the care, comfort, safety, health, and welfare of the ward; (4) Provide required consents on behalf of the ward; (5) To exercise all powers and discharge all duties necessary or proper to implement the provisions of this section. 4. A guardian of an adult or minor ward is not obligated by virtue of such guardian's appointment to use the guardian's own financial resources for the support of the ward. If the 18 ward's estate and available public benefits are inadequate for the proper care of the ward, the 19 guardian or conservator may apply to the county commission pursuant to section 475.370. 20 5. No guardian of the person shall have authority to seek admission of the guardian's 21 ward to a mental health or intellectual disability facility for more than thirty days for any purpose 23 without court order except as otherwise provided by law. 6. Only the director or chief administrative officer of a social service agency serving as 24 25 guardian of an incapacitated person, or such person's designee, is legally authorized to act on behalf of the ward. 26 27 7. A social service agency serving as guardian of an incapacitated person shall notify the 28 court within fifteen days after any change in the identity of the professional individual who has primary responsibility for providing guardianship services to the incapacitated person. 30 8. Any social service agency serving as guardian may not provide other services to the 31 ward. 32 9. In the absence of any written direction from the ward to the contrary, a guardian may execute a preneed contract for the ward's funeral services, including cremation, or an irrevocable 34 life insurance policy to pay for the ward's funeral services, including cremation, and authorize the payment of such services from the ward's resources. Nothing in this section shall interfere 35 36 with the rights of next-of-kin to direct the disposition of the body of the ward upon death under

475.123. 1. [No] Consent of the guardian shall be obtained as authorized in section 431.061 before a medical or surgical procedure [shall] may be performed on any ward unless

personally financially responsible for the payment of services.

section 194.119. If a preneed arrangement such as that authorized by this subsection is in place

and no next-of-kin exercises the right of sepulcher within ten days of the death of the ward, the

guardian may sign consents for the disposition of the body, including cremation, without any liability therefor. A guardian who exercises the authority granted in this subsection shall not be

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[consent is obtained from the guardian of his person except as provided in subsections 2 and 3
 hereof emergency treatment is required and consent is excused as provided under section

5 431.063.

- 2. If the life of the ward is threatened and there is not time to obtain consent, a medical or surgical procedure may be performed without consent after the medical necessity for the procedure has been documented in the medical record of the ward.
- 3. If the life of a person is threatened and [his] the person's consent to a necessary medical or surgical procedure cannot be obtained, a court, on petition filed pursuant to section 475.060, after hearing, may authorize consent on behalf of such person.
- 4. Any hearing conducted pursuant to subsection 3 of this section, involving a life threatening medical emergency, may be conducted within or without the county at the medical facility where the person has been admitted with such notice and in such form as is practicable considering the time limitations imposed due to the condition of person. The fact of attempted oral notice to persons interested in the welfare of the person shall be made a part of the record of the hearing.
- 5. The guardian, in making health care decisions for the adult ward or in seeking court approval for such decisions, shall maximize the participation of the ward.
- 6. The guardian, in making health care decisions for the adult ward or in seeking court approval for such decisions, shall:
  - (1) Consider the medical facts;
  - (2) Consider the health care options and risks and benefits of each; and
- (3) Encourage and support the individual in understanding the facts and directing a decision.
- 7. (1) To the extent the adult ward cannot currently direct the health care decision, the guardian shall act in accordance with the ward's prior directions, directives, expressed desires, and opinions about health care to the extent actually known or ascertainable by the guardian. However, if the ward's prior directions, directives, expressed desires, and opinions about health care are unknown and unascertainable, the guardian shall act in accordance with reasonable information received from professionals and persons who demonstrate sufficient interest in the adult ward's welfare to determine the ward's best interests. Such determination shall include consideration of consequences for others that an individual in the ward's circumstances would consider.
- (2) In the event of an emergency, the guardian shall grant or deny authorization of emergency health care treatment based on a reasonable assessment of the criteria listed in section 475.359.

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38 8. Taking into consideration the person's health and well-being, the guardian shall 39 seek to ensure that the person receives appropriate health care.

475.125. 1. The court may make orders for the management of the estate of the protectee for the care, education, treatment, habilitation, respite, support and maintenance of the protectee and for the support and maintenance of [his or her] the protectee's family and education of [his or her] the protectee's spouse and children, according to [his or her] the protectee's means and obligation, if any, out of the proceeds of [his or her] the protectee's estate, and may direct that payments for such purposes shall be made weekly, monthly, quarterly, semiannually or annually. The payments ordered under this section may be decreased or increased from time to time as ordered by the court.

- 2. In setting the amount of the support allowance for the protectee or any other persons entitled to such support, the court shall consider the previous standard of living of the spouse or other family members, the composition of the estate, the income and other assets available to the protectee and the other persons, and the expenses of the protectee or the other persons entitled to support.
- 3. Appropriations for any such purposes, expenses of administration and allowed claims shall be paid from the property or income of the estate. The court may authorize the conservator to borrow money and obligate the estate for the payment thereof if the court finds that funds of the estate for the payment of such obligation will be available within a reasonable time and that the loan is necessary. If payments are made to another under the order of the court, the conservator of the estate is not bound to see to the application thereof.
- [3.] 4. In acting under this section the court shall take into account any duty imposed by law or contract upon a parent or spouse of the protectee, a government agency, a trustee, or other person or corporation, to make payments for the benefit of or provide support, education, care, treatment, habilitation, respite, maintenance or safekeeping of the protectee and [his or her] the protectee's dependents. The guardian of the person and the conservator of the estate shall endeavor to enforce any such duty.
- 475.130. 1. The conservator of the estate of a minor or disabled person shall, under supervision of the court, protect, preserve, and manage the estate, apply it as provided in this code, account for it faithfully, perform all other duties required of the conservator by law, and at the termination of the conservatorship deliver the assets of the protectee to the persons entitled 5 thereto. In protecting, preserving, and managing the estate, the conservator of the estate is under a duty to use the degree of care, skill, and prudence [which] that an ordinarily prudent person uses in managing the property of, and conducting transactions on behalf of, others. If a conservator of the estate has special skills or is appointed on the basis of representations of special skills or expertise, the conservator is under a duty to use those skills in the conduct of the

protectee's affairs. A conservator of the estate is under a duty to act in the interest of the protectee and to avoid conflicts of interest which impair the conservator's ability so to act.

- 2. The conservator of the estate shall take possession of all of the protectee's real and personal property, and of rents, income, issue, and profits therefrom, whether accruing before or after the conservator's appointment, and of the proceeds arising from the sale, mortgage, lease, or exchange thereof. Subject to such possession, the title to all such estate, and to the increment and proceeds thereof, is in the protectee and not in the conservator. Upon a showing that funds available or payable for the benefit of the protectee by any federal agency are being applied for the benefit of the protectee, or that such federal agency has refused to recognize the authority of the conservator to administer such funds, the court may waive, by order, the duty of the conservator to account therefor.
- 3. In managing, investing, and distributing the estate of a protectee, the conservator shall use reasonable efforts to:
  - (1) Ascertain the income, assets, and liabilities of the protectee;
  - (2) Ascertain the needs and preferences of the protectee;
  - (3) Coordinate with the guardian and consult with others close to the protectee;
  - (4) Prepare a plan for the management of the protectee's income and assets; and
- (5) Provide oversight to any income and assets of the protectee under the control of the protectee.
- **4.** The court has full authority under the rules of civil procedure to enjoin any person from interfering with the right of the conservator to possession of the assets of the protectee, including benefits payable from any source.
- [4:] 5. The conservator of the estate shall prosecute and defend all actions instituted in behalf of or against the protectee[;], collect all debts due or becoming due to the protectee, and give acquittances and discharges therefor, and adjust, settle, and pay all claims due or becoming due from the protectee so far as [his or her] the protectee's estate and effects will extend, except as provided in sections 507.150 and 507.188.
- 37 [5.] **6.** A conservator of the estate has power, without authorization or approval of the 38 court, to:
- 39 (1) Settle or compromise a claim against the protectee or the estate agreeing to pay or 40 paying not more than [one] five thousand dollars;
  - (2) Settle, abandon, or compromise a claim in favor of the estate [which] that does not exceed [one] five thousand dollars;
    - (3) Receive additions to the estate;
- **(4)** Sell, or agree to sell, chattels and choses in action reasonably worth not more than 45 **[one] five** thousand dollars for cash or upon terms involving a reasonable extension of credit;

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46 [(4)] (5) Exchange, or agree to exchange, chattels and choses in action for other such property of equivalent value, not in excess of [one] five thousand dollars;

- [(5)] (6) Insure or contract for insurance of property of the estate against fire, theft and other hazards:
- [(6)] (7) Insure or contract for insurance protecting the protectee against any liability likely to be incurred, including medical and hospital expenses, and protecting the conservator against liability to third parties arising from acts or omissions connected with possession or management of the estate;
- [<del>(7)</del>] **(8)** Contract for needed repairs and maintenance of property of the estate;
- [(8)] (9) Lease land and buildings for terms not exceeding one year, reserving reasonable rent, and renew any such lease for a like term;
  - [(9)] (10) Vote corporate stock in person or by general or limited proxy;
- [(10)] (11) Contract for the provision of board, lodging, education, medical care, or necessaries of the protectee for periods not exceeding one year, and renew any such contract for a like period;
- (12) Commence a proceeding, including an administrative proceeding, or take other appropriate action to compel a person to support the protectee or to pay moneys for the benefit of the protectee;
  - (13) Deposit funds in a bank, including a bank operated by the conservator;
- (14) Hold a security in the name of a nominee or in other form without disclosure of the conservatorship so title to the security may pass by delivery, but the conservator is liable for any act of the nominee in connection with the stock so held;
- (15) Pay taxes, assessments, and other expenses incurred in the collection, care, administration, and protection of the estate;
- (16) Pay any sum distributable to a protectee or the protectee's dependent without liability to the conservator, by paying the sum to the distributee or by paying the sum for the use of the distributee either to the distributee's guardian or, if none, to a relative or other person with custody of the distributee;
- (17) Prosecute or defend actions, claims, or proceedings in any jurisdiction for the protection of estate assets and of the conservator in the performance of the conservator's duties;
- (18) Execute and deliver all instruments that will accomplish or facilitate the exercise of the powers vested in the conservator; and
- 79 [(11)] (19) On or after August 28, 2009, invest the estate in accordance with the provisions of section 475.190.

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- [6.] 7. If, in exercising any power conferred by subsection [5] 6 of this section, a conservator breaches any of the duties enumerated in subsection 1 of this section, the conservator may be surcharged for losses to the estate caused by the breach but persons who dealt with the conservator in good faith, without knowledge of or reason to suspect the breach of duty, may enforce and retain the benefits of any transaction with the conservator which the conservator has power under subsection [5] 6 of this section to conduct.
- 475.145. When a conservator of the estate has been appointed, an inventory and appraisement of the estate of the protectee shall be made in the same manner and within the same time and subject to the same requirements as are provided in sections 473.233 to 473.243 for the inventory and appraisement of a decedent's estate. The inventory shall include property as to which the protectee is a joint tenant or tenant by the entirety and all policies of life insurance owned by the protectee, whether or not payable to a named beneficiary, together with a statement of all income and benefits to which the protectee is or will be entitled to receive. **The inventory** shall also disclose any nonprobate transferees designated to receive nonprobate transfers after the protectee's death.
  - 475.230. 1. Sales of real estate of protectees shall be conducted in the same manner and the same proceedings shall be had with reference thereto as in cases of sale of real estate of decedents for payment of claims[, except that there shall be no notice to parties in interest before the making of the order].
  - 2. Unless waived by the court for cause, the protectee is entitled to ten days' prior notice of a required court hearing on the petition for the sale of the protectee's real or tangible personal property. The protectee is not entitled to notice of a hearing on the petition for the sale of the protectee's intangible personal property.
- 475.270. 1. Every conservator shall file with the court annually, or more often if required by the court, a settlement of [his] the conservator's accounts [once a year or oftener] if required by the court detailing the current status of the estate under conservatorship. The annual settlement shall be made at a time fixed by the court within [thirty] sixty days after the 5 anniversary of the appointment of such conservator [and on the corresponding date of each year thereafter until the final settlement]. 6
  - 2. Each settlement of a conservator shall conform to the requirements of section 473.543 as to settlements in decedents' estates.
- 3. If the conservatorship estate meets the indigency standards prescribed by chapter 208, 10 is under the control of another fiduciary, including a Social Security representative payee or Veterans Affairs fiduciary, or if the assets of a protectee have been placed in restricted custody, the court may waive the requirements [of subsection 2 of this] that the settlement

comply with the requirements of section 473.543 and require the conservator to report, in a form prescribed by the court, the following information:

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- 15 (1) A statement of any money or property received during the preceding year including the date, source and amount or value;
  - (2) A statement of disbursements made and the purpose thereof;
- 18 (3) The total amount of money or property on hand;
- 19 (4) The name and address of any depositary where estate funds are deposited and the 20 amounts thereof.
  - 4. Except when a public administrator is serving as conservator, in addition to the information required under subsection 3 of this section, the settlement shall include:
    - (1) The present address of the protectee;
    - (2) The present address of the conservator;
    - (3) The services being provided to the protected person;
    - (4) The significant actions taken by the conservator during the reporting period;
  - (5) An opinion of the conservator as to the continued need for conservatorship and any recommended changes in the scope of the conservatorship;
- 29 (6) The compensation requested and the reasonable and necessary expenses 30 incurred by the conservator;
  - (7) A plan for the coming year, including short-term or long-term goals, and the extent to which the protectee has participated in the development of the plan; and
  - (8) Any other information requested by the court or useful in the opinion of the conservator.
    - 475.276. 1. If the assets of the protectee are under the control of another fiduciary,
- 2 including a Social Security representative payee or Veterans Affairs fiduciary, or if the
- 3 value of the assets of the estate of a protectee does not exceed the value prescribed by chapter
- 4 208 for [welfare] public benefit eligibility and whether or not such protectee receives other [old
- 5 age, disability or dependency] public benefits from the federal government or the state of
- 6 Missouri, the court may, upon satisfactory proof that adequate provision has been made for the
- 7 care and maintenance of the protectee, waive or modify the requirements of sections 475.270 and
- 8 475.275.

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- 2. If the estate of a protectee consists solely of cash or its equivalent which has been placed in restricted custody so that no withdrawals may be made except on order of the court as prescribed by section 473.160, the court may waive or modify the requirements of sections 475.270 and 475.275.
- 3. Any order entered pursuant to subsection 1 or 2 of this section shall specify the events or circumstances which shall cause the same to terminate. The order may also provide that the

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estate shall not be liable for court costs or other expenses of administration so long as the order remains in effect and may direct any state agency or require the conservator of the estate to request a federal agency to pay benefits directly to the custodial facility in which the protectee resides.

475.290. 1. Conservators shall make final settlement of their conservatorship at a time fixed by the court, either by rule or otherwise, within [sixty] ninety days after termination of their authority. For the purpose of settlement, the conservator shall make a just and true exhibit of the account between himself or herself and [his] the protectee, and file the same in the court having jurisdiction thereof, and cause a copy of the account, together with a written notice stating the day on which and the court in which [he] the conservator will make settlement, to be delivered to [his] the protectee or, in case of revocation or resignation, to the succeeding conservator or in case of death of [his] the protectee to [his] the executor or administrator of the protectee's estate or other person designated by the court, at least twenty days before the date set for settlement.

- 2. If, for any cause, a copy of the account and written notice cannot be delivered to the protectee or other person entitled thereto, the court may order notice of the filing of the account, and of the time and place at which final settlement is to be made, to be given by publication once a week for four weeks next before the date set for settlement in accordance with section 472.100.
- 3. At the time specified in the notice, the court, upon satisfactory proof of the delivery of a copy of the account and written notice of the settlement to the protectee or person entitled thereto, or [his] the protectee's written waiver thereof, or in case the court has ordered notice to be given by publication, then upon proof of compliance with such order, shall proceed to examine the accounts of the conservator, correct all errors therein, if any there be, and make a final settlement with the conservator; or the court may, for good cause, continue the settlement and proceed therein at any time agreed upon by the parties or fixed by the court.

#### 475.322. [When a protectee:

- (1) Purchased United States bonds in co-ownership form, payable to himself and another or the survivor, or in beneficiary form, payable to himself during his lifetime and to another upon his death;
- (2) Deposited funds in a joint account in the name of himself and any one or more other persons, and in form to be paid to any one or more of them, or the survivor or survivors of them, or in an account payable to himself during his lifetime and upon his death to another, or in an account in his own name upon revocable trust for another; or
- (3) Owns real or personal property in joint tenancy or tenancy by the entirety;

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the conservator may, with the authorization or approval of the court, redeem such bonds, withdraw funds from such account, and sell, exchange or mortgage the protectee's estate or interest in such joint or entirety property, to the extent that funds are needed to pay expenses under section 475.125 or claims under section 475.211. With respect to property held in joint tenancy, the provisions of sections 362.470 and 369.174 shall be applicable and with respect to any property held in tenancy by the entirety, the provisions of section 442.035 shall be applicable and the conservator, with or without court approval, shall not have authority to redeem, withdraw, sell, exchange or mortgage the protectee's estate or interest in such entirety property without the approval of the other tenant by the entirety. The court shall not authorize or approve such redemption, withdrawal, sale, exchange or mortgage as to the share contributed to the purchase of such bonds, the making of deposits in such an account, or the acquisition of such joint or entirety property by the co-owner or beneficiary of the bonds, a joint depositor, a person to whom an account is payable on death, a beneficiary of a revocable trust of an account, or a eotenant of property. 1. Except as provided under section 475.094, the conservator shall administer a protectee's estate by maintaining the protectee's estate plan as evidenced by the protectee's will, trust, real and personal property assets held jointly with right of survivorship, and assets titled in the protectee's name with nonprobate transfers under sections 461.003 to 461.081 and other assets with beneficiary designations including, but not limited to, those in bank or credit union accounts, investment accounts, motor vehicles, insurance policies and annuities, individual retirement accounts, and deferred compensation accounts. A conservator may examine the will and any other donative, nominative, or other appointive instrument of the protectee.

- 2. To the extent that the conservator shall pay expenses of the protectee or the protectee's dependents under section 475.125 or claims under sections 475.205 to 475.213 or section 475.260 because the protectee's estate does not have sufficient assets in the protectee's or estate's name solely, the conservator may apply for an order of the court authorizing the redemption or liquidation of the decedent's joint assets or assets titled with nonprobate transfers in the following order of priority only as necessary to pay expenses and claims of the protectee's estate at the time of application:
- (1) Assets owned solely by the unmarried protectee or the protectee's estate with beneficiary designations under the nonprobate transfer law as provided under sections 461.003 to 461.081, banking law, and other property with beneficiary designations, including insurance policies and annuities, individual retirement accounts, deferred compensation and other contributory pension accounts, and any other assets with beneficiary designations;

46 (2) The proportional interest in some or all of the jointly held assets upon notice and after opportunity to be heard by the other joint owners. 47

475.341. Except when a public administrator is serving as conservator, a sale, encumbrance, or other transaction involving the management of the conservatorship entered into by the conservator for the conservator's own personal gain or which is otherwise affected by a conflict between the conservator's fiduciary and personal interests is voidable unless the transaction:

(1) Was approved by the court;

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- (2) Involves a contract entered into or claim acquired by the conservator before the person became or contemplated becoming conservator;
  - (3) Involves a deposit of estate moneys to a bank operated by the conservator; or
- 10 (4) Involves an advance by the conservator of moneys for the protection of the 11 estate.

#### 475.342. The conservator shall:

- 2 (1) Keep estate property separate from the conservator's own property; and
- (2) Cause the estate's property to be designated so that any ownership interest of the estate, to the extent feasible, appears in records maintained by a financial institution or party other than the conservator or protectee. 5
  - 475.343. 1. A guardian of an adult or minor ward is not obligated by virtue of such guardian's appointment to use the guardian's own financial resources for the support of the ward. If the ward's estate and available public benefits are inadequate for the proper care of the ward, the guardian or conservator may apply to the county commission under section 475.370.
  - 2. No guardian of the person shall have authority to seek admission of the guardian's ward to a mental health facility or an intellectual disability facility for more than thirty days for any purpose without court order except as otherwise provided by law.
  - 3. Only the director or chief administrative officer of a social service agency serving as guardian of an incapacitated person, or such person's designee, is legally authorized to act on behalf of the ward.
  - 4. A social service agency serving as guardian of an incapacitated person shall notify the court within fifteen days after any change in the identity of the professional individual who has primary responsibility for providing guardianship services to the incapacitated person.
- 16 5. Any social service agency serving as guardian shall not provide other services to 17 the ward.

475.344. 1. With the approval of the court, a conservator may delegate to an agent duties and powers that are prudent under the circumstances. The conservator shall exercise reasonable care, skill, and caution in:

(1) Selecting an agent;

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- (2) Establishing the scope and terms of the delegation, consistent with the purposes and terms of the conservatorship; and
- (3) Periodically reviewing the agent's actions in order to monitor the agent's performance and compliance with the terms of the delegation.
- 2. In performing a delegated function, an agent owes a duty to the protectee to exercise reasonable care to comply with the terms of the delegation.
- 3. By accepting a delegation of powers or duties from the conservator of a conservatorship that is subject to the law of this state, an agent submits to the jurisdiction of the courts of this state.
- 475.355. 1. If, upon the filing of a petition for the adjudication of incapacity or disability it appears that the respondent, by reason of a mental disorder or intellectual disability or developmental disability, presents a likelihood of serious physical harm to [himself] the respondent or others, [he] the respondent may be detained in accordance with the provisions of chapter 632 if suffering from a mental disorder, or chapter 633 if the [person] respondent has an intellectual or developmental disability, pending a hearing on the petition for adjudication.
  - 2. As used in this section, the terms "mental disorder" and "intellectual disability" **or** "developmental disability" shall be as defined in chapter 630 and the term "likelihood of serious physical harm to [himself] the respondent or others" shall be as the term "likelihood of serious harm" is defined in chapter 632.
- 3. The procedure for obtaining an order of temporary emergency detention shall be as prescribed by chapter 632, relating to prehearing detention of mentally disordered persons.
- 475.357. The probate divisions of the courts of this state have jurisdiction over issues of the adjudication of incapacity, partial incapacity, disability, or partial disability and the appointment of a guardian, limited guardian, conservator, or limited conservator of an adult eighteen years of age or older whose parents have a pending matter under chapter 210 or chapter 452 for child custody or visitation of that child. The court that has jurisdiction under chapter 210 or chapter 452 shall have the authority to enter orders only as to child support after such adjudication and appointment of a guardian by the probate division.
- 475.359. 1. A guardian or limited guardian of an incapacitated person or partially incapacitated person shall act in the best interest of the ward, taking into consideration the ward's communications as to the ward's goals, wants, needs, and preferences, as are

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4 appropriate for the ward considering his or her physical and mental condition and 5 financial means. A limited guardian of a partially incapacitated person shall have the 6 powers and duties enumerated by the court in the adjudication order or any later 7 modifying order.

- 2. Except as otherwise limited by the court, a guardian shall make decisions regarding the adult ward's support, care, education, health, and welfare. A guardian shall exercise authority only as necessitated by the adult ward's limitations and, to the extent possible, shall encourage the ward to participate in decisions, act on the ward's own behalf, and develop or regain the capacity to manage the ward's personal affairs.
- 3. Before making decisions on behalf of the adult ward, the guardian shall, to the extent possible, ascertain the ward's goals, wants, needs, and preferences, as are appropriate for the ward considering his or her physical and mental condition and financial means, as follows:
  - (1) First, the guardian shall ask the ward what the ward wants;
- (2) Second, if the ward has difficulty expressing what the ward wants, the guardian shall do everything possible to help the ward express his or her goals, wants, needs, and preferences; and
- (3) Third, if the ward, even with assistance, cannot express his or her goals and preferences, the guardian shall seek input from others familiar with the person to determine what the individual would have wanted.
- 4. In making decisions on behalf of the ward, the guardian shall consider the ascertained goals, wants, needs, and preferences of the ward to the extent possible. The guardian shall make a decision in accordance with the ward's goals, wants, needs, and preferences unless the guardian determines, after considering all of the options and their potential risks and benefits, that such a decision would not be in the ward's best interest. If the ward's goals, wants, needs, and preferences cannot be ascertained, the guardian shall make a decision based solely on what a reasonable person would do after considering all of the options and their potential risks and benefits, as are appropriate for the ward considering his or her physical and mental condition and financial means.
- 5. The general powers and duties of a guardian of an incapacitated person shall be to take charge of the person of the ward and to provide for the ward's care, treatment, habilitation, education, support, and maintenance, and the powers and duties shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
- (1) Maintain sufficient contact, including at least one in-person annual visit, with the ward to know of the ward's capacities, limitations, needs, opportunities, and physical and mental health;

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(2) File a report with the court within ninety days of appointment indicating that the guardian has met with the ward and describing how the guardian will meet the needs 42 of the ward and address the ward's preferences. Such report may include a plan from a service provider;

- (3) Assure that the ward resides in the best and least restrictive setting reasonably available. The guardian shall give priority to home- or community-based settings if not inconsistent with the ward's goals and preferences, as are appropriate for the ward considering his or her physical and mental condition and financial means;
  - (4) Assure that the ward receives medical care and other services that are needed;
  - (5) Promote and protect the care, comfort, safety, health, and welfare of the ward;
  - (6) Provide required consents on behalf of the ward;
- (7) Exercise all powers and discharge all duties necessary or proper to implement the provisions of this section;
- (8) Make a good faith effort to cooperate with other fiduciaries for the ward as applicable including, but not limited to, any other guardian, conservator, agent under a power of attorney, trustee, Veterans Affairs fiduciary, or representative payee; and
- (9) Notify the court if, in the opinion of the guardian, the ward's condition has changed to the extent that the ward is capable of exercising rights previously removed.
- 6. A guardian of an adult or minor ward is not obligated by virtue of such guardian's appointment to use the guardian's own financial resources for the support of the ward. If the ward's estate and available public benefits are inadequate for the proper care of the ward, the guardian or conservator may apply to the county commissioner under section 475.370.
- 475.361. 1. The provisions of section 475.078 notwithstanding, in every guardianship, the incapacitated person has the right to:
  - (1) A guardian who acts in the best interests of the ward;
  - (2) A guardian who is reasonably accessible to the ward;
- (3) Communicate freely and privately with family, friends, and other persons other than the guardian; except that, such right may be limited by the guardian for good cause but only as necessary to ensure the ward's condition, safety, habilitation, or sound therapeutic treatment;
- (4) Individually or through the ward's representative or legal counsel, bring an action relating to the guardianship, including the right to file a petition alleging that the ward is being unjustly denied a right or privilege granted by this chapter, including the right to bring an action to modify or terminate the guardianship under the provisions of section 475.083;

- 14 (5) The least restrictive form of guardianship assistance, taking into consideration 15 the ward's functional limitations, personal needs, and preferences;
  - (6) Be restored to capacity at the earliest possible time;
- 17 (7) Receive information from the court that describes the ward's rights, including 18 rights the ward may seek by petitioning the court; and
  - (8) Participate in any health care decision-making process.
- 20 2. An adult ward may petition the court to grant the ward the right to:
- 21 (1) Contract to marry or to petition for dissolution of marriage;
- 22 (2) Make, modify, or terminate other contracts or ratify contracts made by the 23 ward;
  - (3) Consent to medical treatment;
  - (4) Establish a residence or dwelling place;
- 26 (5) Change domicile;

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- 27 (6) Bring or defend any action at law or equity, except an action relating to the guardianship; or
  - (7) Drive a motor vehicle if the ward can pass the required driving test.
- 30 3. The appointment of a guardian shall revoke the powers of an agent who was previously appointed by the ward to act as an agent under a durable power of attorney for health care, unless the court so orders.
- 4. The appointment of a guardian is not a determination that the ward lacks testamentary capacity.
  - 630.005. As used in this chapter and chapters 631, 632, and 633, unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the following terms shall mean:
- 3 (1) "Administrative entity", a provider of specialized services other than transportation 4 to clients of the department on behalf of a division of the department;
- 5 (2) "Alcohol abuse", the use of any alcoholic beverage, which use results in intoxication 6 or in a psychological or physiological dependency from continued use, which dependency 7 induces a mental, emotional or physical impairment and which causes socially dysfunctional 8 behavior;
- 9 (3) "Chemical restraint", medication administered with the primary intent of restraining 10 a patient who presents a likelihood of serious physical injury to himself or others, and not 11 prescribed to treat a person's medical condition;
- 12 (4) "Client", any person who is placed by the department in a facility or program licensed 13 and funded by the department or who is a recipient of services from a regional center, as defined 14 in section 633.005;
  - (5) "Commission", the state mental health commission;

- 16 (6) "Consumer", a person:
- 17 (a) Who qualifies to receive department services; or
- 18 (b) Who is a parent, child or sibling of a person who receives department services; or

(c) Who has a personal interest in services provided by the department.

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- A person who provides services to persons affected by intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities, mental disorders, mental illness, or alcohol or drug abuse shall not be considered a consumer;
- (7) "Day program", a place conducted or maintained by any person who advertises or holds himself out as providing prevention, evaluation, treatment, habilitation or rehabilitation for persons affected by mental disorders, mental illness, intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities or alcohol or drug abuse for less than the full twenty-four hours comprising each daily period;
- 29 (8) "Department", the department of mental health of the state of Missouri;
- 30 (9) "Developmental disability", a disability:
- 31 (a) Which is attributable to:
- a. Intellectual disability, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, head injury or autism, or a learning disability related to a brain dysfunction; or
- b. Any other mental or physical impairment or combination of mental or physical impairments; and
  - (b) Is manifested before the person attains age twenty-two; and
- 37 (c) Is likely to continue indefinitely; and
- 38 (d) Results in substantial functional limitations in two or more of the following areas of major life activities:
- 40 a. Self-care;
- 41 b. Receptive and expressive language development and use;
- 42 c. Learning;
- d. Self-direction;
- e. Capacity for independent living or economic self-sufficiency;
- 45 f. Mobility; and
- 46 (e) Reflects the person's need for a combination and sequence of special, 47 interdisciplinary, or generic care, habilitation or other services which may be of lifelong or 48 extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated;
  - (10) "Director", the director of the department of mental health, or his designee;
- 50 (11) "Domiciled in Missouri", a permanent connection between an individual and the 51 state of Missouri, which is more than mere residence in the state; it may be established by the

individual being physically present in Missouri with the intention to abandon his previous

52 Individual being physically present in Wissouri with the intention to abandon his previous domicile and to remain in Missouri permanently or indefinitely;

(12) "Drug abuse", the use of any drug without compelling medical reason, which use results in a temporary mental, emotional or physical impairment and causes socially dysfunctional behavior, or in psychological or physiological dependency resulting from continued use, which dependency induces a mental, emotional or physical impairment and causes socially dysfunctional behavior;

- (13) "Habilitation", a process of treatment, training, care or specialized attention [which] that seeks to enhance and maximize a person with an intellectual disability or a developmental disability to cope with the environment and to live as [normally] determined by the person as much as possible, as is appropriate for the person considering his or her physical and mental condition and financial means;
- 64 (14) "Habilitation center", a residential facility operated by the department and serving 65 only persons who are developmentally disabled;
  - (15) "Head of the facility", the chief administrative officer, or his designee, of any residential facility;
  - (16) "Head of the program", the chief administrative officer, or his designee, of any day program;
  - (17) "Individualized habilitation plan", a document which sets forth habilitation goals and objectives for residents and clients with an intellectual disability or a developmental disability, and which details the habilitation program as required by law, rules and funding sources;
  - (18) "Individualized rehabilitation plan", a document which sets forth the care, treatment and rehabilitation goals and objectives for patients and clients affected by alcohol or drug abuse, and which details the rehabilitation program as required by law, rules and funding sources;
  - (19) "Individualized treatment plan", a document which sets forth the care, treatment and rehabilitation goals and objectives for patients and clients with mental disorders or mental illness, and which details the treatment program as required by law, rules and funding sources;
- 80 (20) "Intellectual disability", significantly subaverage general intellectual functioning 81 which:
  - (a) Originates before age eighteen; and
  - (b) Is associated with a significant impairment in adaptive behavior;
  - (21) "Investigator", an employee or contract agent of the department of mental health who is performing an investigation regarding an allegation of abuse or neglect or an investigation at the request of the director of the department of mental health or his designee;

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- 87 (22) "Least restrictive environment", a reasonably available setting or mental health 88 program where care, treatment, habilitation or rehabilitation is particularly suited to the level and 89 quality of services necessary to implement a person's individualized treatment, habilitation or 90 rehabilitation plan and to enable the person to maximize his or her functioning potential to participate as freely as feasible in normal living activities, giving due consideration to potentially 91 92 harmful effects on the person and the safety of other facility or program clients and public safety. 93 For some persons with mental disorders, intellectual disabilities, or developmental disabilities, 94 the least restrictive environment may be a facility operated by the department, a private facility, 95 a supported community living situation, or an alternative community program designed for persons who are civilly detained for outpatient treatment or who are conditionally released 96 97 pursuant to chapter 632;
  - (23) "Mental disorder", any organic, mental or emotional impairment which has substantial adverse effects on a person's cognitive, volitional or emotional function and which constitutes a substantial impairment in a person's ability to participate in activities of normal living;
  - (24) "Mental illness", a state of impaired mental processes, which impairment results in a distortion of a person's capacity to recognize reality due to hallucinations, delusions, faulty perceptions or alterations of mood, and interferes with an individual's ability to reason, understand or exercise conscious control over his actions. The term "mental illness" does not include the following conditions unless they are accompanied by a mental illness as otherwise defined in this subdivision:
    - (a) Intellectual disability, developmental disability or narcolepsy;
    - (b) Simple intoxication caused by substances such as alcohol or drugs;
    - (c) Dependence upon or addiction to any substances such as alcohol or drugs;
- (d) Any other disorders such as senility, which are not of an actively psychotic nature;
- 112 (25) "Minor", any person under the age of eighteen years;
- 113 (26) "Patient", an individual under observation, care, treatment or rehabilitation by any 114 hospital or other mental health facility or mental health program pursuant to the provisions of 115 chapter 632;
- 116 (27) "Psychosurgery":
- 117 (a) Surgery on the normal brain tissue of an individual not suffering from physical 118 disease for the purpose of changing or controlling behavior; or
- 119 (b) Surgery on diseased brain tissue of an individual if the sole object of the surgery is 120 to control, change or affect behavioral disturbances, except seizure disorders;

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- 121 (28) "Rehabilitation", a process of restoration of a person's ability to attain or maintain 122 normal or optimum health or constructive activity through care, treatment, training, counseling 123 or specialized attention;
  - (29) "Residence", the place where the patient has last generally lodged prior to admission or, in case of a minor, where his family has so lodged; except, that admission or detention in any facility of the department shall not be deemed an absence from the place of residence and shall not constitute a change in residence;
  - (30) "Resident", a person receiving residential services from a facility, other than mental health facility, operated, funded or licensed by the department;
  - (31) "Residential facility", any premises where residential prevention, evaluation, care, treatment, habilitation or rehabilitation is provided for persons affected by mental disorders, mental illness, intellectual disability, developmental disabilities or alcohol or drug abuse; except the person's dwelling;
  - (32) "Specialized service", an entity which provides prevention, evaluation, transportation, care, treatment, habilitation or rehabilitation services to persons affected by mental disorders, mental illness, intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities or alcohol or drug abuse;
- 138 (33) "Vendor", a person or entity under contract with the department, other than as a department employee, who provides services to patients, residents or clients;
- 140 (34) "Vulnerable person", any person in the custody, care, or control of the department 141 that is receiving services from an operated, funded, licensed, or certified program.

