

State of South Dakota

NINETY-THIRD SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2018

931Z0409

HOUSE BILL NO. 1204

Introduced by: Representatives Lust, Barthel, Diedrich, Johns, Schoenfish, and Wismer and
Senators Partridge, Haverly, Kennedy, Rusch, and Soholt

1 FOR AN ACT ENTITLED, An Act to revise certain provisions regarding power of attorney.

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

3 Section 1. That the code be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

4 Terms used in this Act mean:

5 (1) "Agent," a person granted authority to act for a principal under a power of attorney,
6 whether denominated an agent, attorney-in-fact, or otherwise. The term includes an
7 original agent, co-agent, successor agent, and a person to whom an agent's authority
8 is delegated;

9 (2) "Durable," not terminated by the principal's incapacity;

10 (3) "Electronic," relating to technology having electrical, digital, magnetic, wireless,
11 optical, electromagnetic, or similar capabilities;

12 (4) "Good faith," honesty in fact;

13 (5) "Incapacity," inability of an individual to manage property, business, or financial
14 affairs because the individual:

15 (a) Has an impairment or other deficit in the ability to receive and evaluate



1 information or to make or communicate any decision even with the use of
2 technological assistance; or

3 (b) Is:

4 (i) Missing or has disappeared;

5 (ii) Detained, including incarcerated in a penal system; or

6 (iii) Outside the United States and unable to return;

7 (6) "Person," an individual, corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, limited
8 liability company, association, joint venture, public corporation, government or
9 governmental subdivision, agency or instrumentality, or any other legal or
10 commercial entity;

11 (7) "Power of attorney," a writing or other record that grants authority to an agent to act
12 in the place of the principal, whether or not the term, power of attorney, is used;

13 (8) "Presently exercisable general power of appointment," regarding property or an
14 interest in property that is subject to a power of appointment, a power to vest absolute
15 ownership in a principal individually, a principal's estate, a principal's creditors, or
16 the creditors of a principal's estate. The term includes a power of appointment not
17 exercisable until the occurrence of a specified event, the satisfaction of an
18 ascertainable standard, or the passage of a specified period only after the occurrence
19 of the specified event, the satisfaction of the ascertainable standard, or the passage
20 of the specified period. The term does not include a power exercisable in a fiduciary
21 capacity or only by will;

22 (9) "Principal," an individual who grants authority to an agent in a power of attorney;

23 (10) "Property," anything that may be the subject of ownership, whether real or personal,
24 legal or equitable, or any interest or right in the subject;

- 1 (11) "Record," information that is inscribed on a tangible medium or that is stored in an
2 electronic or other medium and is retrievable in perceivable form;
- 3 (12) "Sign," with present intent to authenticate or adopt a record:
- 4 (a) To execute or adopt a tangible symbol; or
- 5 (b) To attach to or logically associate with the record an electronic sound, symbol,
6 or process;
- 7 (13) "State," a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United
8 States Virgin Islands, or any territory or insular possession subject to the jurisdiction
9 of the United States;
- 10 (14) "Stocks and bonds," stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and any other type of securities and
11 financial instrument, whether held directly, indirectly, or in any other manner. The
12 term does not include commodity futures contracts and call or put options on stocks
13 or stock indexes.

14 Section 2. That the code be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

15 This Act applies to all powers of attorney other than:

- 16 (1) A power to the extent it is coupled with an interest in the subject of the power,
17 including a power given to or for the benefit of a creditor in connection with a credit
18 transaction;
- 19 (2) A power to make health care decisions;
- 20 (3) A proxy or other delegation to exercise voting rights or management rights with
21 respect to an entity; and
- 22 (4) A power created on a form prescribed by a government or governmental subdivision,
23 agency, or instrumentality for a governmental purpose.

24 Section 3. That the code be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

1 A power of attorney created under this Act is durable unless it expressly provides that it is
2 terminated by the incapacity of the principal.

3 Section 4. That the code be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

4 A power of attorney shall be signed by the principal or in the principal's conscious presence
5 by another individual directed by the principal to sign the principal's name on the power of
6 attorney. Any signature under this section shall be witnessed by two other adult individuals or
7 acknowledged before a notary public or other individual authorized by law to take
8 acknowledgments, or both.

9 Section 5. That the code be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

10 (1) A power of attorney executed in this state on or after July 1, 2018, is valid if its
11 execution complies with section 4 of this Act.

12 (2) A power of attorney executed in this state before July 1, 2018, is valid if its execution
13 complied with the law of this state as it existed at the time of execution.

14 (3) A power of attorney executed other than in this state is valid in this state if, when the
15 power of attorney was executed, the execution complied with:

16 (a) The law of the jurisdiction that determines the meaning and effect of the
17 power of attorney pursuant to section 6 of this Act; or

18 (b) The requirements for a military power of attorney pursuant to 10 U.S.C.
19 § 1044(b).

20 (4) Except as otherwise provided by law, a photocopy or electronically transmitted copy
21 of an original power of attorney has the same effect as the original.

22 Section 6. That the code be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

23 The meaning and effect of a power of attorney is determined by the law of the jurisdiction
24 indicated in the power of attorney and, in the absence of an indication of jurisdiction, by the law

1 of the jurisdiction in which the power of attorney was executed.

2 Section 7. That the code be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

3 (1) In a power of attorney, a principal may nominate a conservator or guardian for
4 consideration by the court if protective proceedings for the principal's estate or person
5 are begun after the principal executes the power of attorney. Except for good cause
6 shown or disqualification, the court shall make its appointment in accordance with
7 the principal's most recent nomination. A guardian appointed under this section shall
8 be subject to the provisions of § 59-7-11.

9 (2) If, after a principal executes a power of attorney, a court appoints a conservator or
10 other fiduciary charged with the management of some or all of the principal's
11 property, the power of attorney is terminated and the agent shall account to the
12 conservator or other court-appointed fiduciary and promptly deliver any property of
13 the principal in the agent's possession to the conservator or other court-appointed
14 fiduciary unless otherwise ordered by the court.

15 Section 8. That the code be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

16 (1) A power of attorney is effective when executed unless the principal provides in the
17 power of attorney that it becomes effective at a future date or upon the occurrence of
18 a future event or contingency.

19 (2) If a power of attorney becomes effective upon the occurrence of a future event or
20 contingency, the principal, in the power of attorney, may authorize one or more
21 persons to determine in a writing or other record that the event or contingency has
22 occurred.

23 (3) If a power of attorney becomes effective upon the principal's incapacity and the
24 principal has not authorized a person to determine whether the principal is

1 incapacitated, or the person authorized is unable or unwilling to make the
2 determination, the power of attorney becomes effective upon a determination in a
3 writing or other record by:

4 (a) A physician or licensed psychologist that the principal is incapacitated within
5 the meaning of subsection (5)(a) of section 1 of this Act; or

6 (b) An attorney at law, a judge, or an appropriate governmental official that the
7 principal is incapacitated within the meaning of subsection (5)(b) of section
8 1 of this Act.

9 (4) A person authorized by the principal in the power of attorney to determine that the
10 principal is incapacitated may act as the principal's personal representative pursuant
11 to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, Sections 1171 through
12 1179 of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1320(d), and applicable regulations, to
13 obtain access to the principal's health care information and communicate with the
14 principal's health care provider.

15 Section 9. That the code be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

16 (1) A power of attorney terminates when:

17 (a) The principal dies;

18 (b) The principal becomes incapacitated, if the power of attorney is not durable;

19 (c) The principal revokes the power of attorney;

20 (d) The power of attorney provides that it terminates;

21 (e) The purpose of a limited or special power of attorney is accomplished;

22 (f) The principal revokes the agent's authority or the agent dies, becomes
23 incapacitated, or resigns, and the power of attorney does not provide for
24 another agent to act under the power of attorney; or

- 1 (g) Pursuant to subdivision (2) of section 7 of this Act.
- 2 (2) An agent's authority terminates when:
- 3 (a) The principal revokes the authority;
- 4 (b) The agent dies, becomes incapacitated, or resigns;
- 5 (c) An action is filed for divorce or annulment of the agent's marriage to the
- 6 principal, or for their legal separation, unless the power of attorney otherwise
- 7 provides; or
- 8 (d) The power of attorney terminates.
- 9 (3) Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides, an agent's authority is exercisable
- 10 until the authority terminates under subdivision (2) of this section, notwithstanding
- 11 a lapse of time since the execution of the power of attorney.
- 12 (4) Termination of an agent's authority or of a power of attorney is not effective as to the
- 13 agent or any other person that, without actual knowledge of the termination, acts in
- 14 good faith under the power of attorney. An act performed under this section, unless
- 15 otherwise invalid or unenforceable, binds the principal and the principal's successors
- 16 in interest.
- 17 (5) Incapacity of the principal of a power of attorney that is not durable does not revoke
- 18 or terminate the power of attorney as to an agent or other person that, without actual
- 19 knowledge of the incapacity, acts in good faith under the power of attorney. An act
- 20 performed under this section, unless otherwise invalid or unenforceable, binds the
- 21 principal and the principal's successors in interest.
- 22 (6) The execution of a power of attorney does not revoke a power of attorney previously
- 23 executed by the principal unless the subsequent power of attorney provides that the
- 24 previous power of attorney is revoked or that all other powers of attorney are

1 revoked.

2 Section 10. That the code be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

3 (1) A principal may designate two or more persons to act as co-agents. Unless the power
4 of attorney otherwise provides, each co-agent may exercise the co-agent's authority
5 independently.

6 (2) A principal may designate one or more successor agents to act if an agent resigns,
7 dies, becomes incapacitated, is not qualified to serve, or declines to serve. A principal
8 may grant authority to designate one or more successor agents to an agent or other
9 person designated by name, office, or function. Unless the power of attorney
10 otherwise provides, a successor agent:

11 (a) Has the same authority granted to the original agent; and

12 (b) May not act until all predecessor agents have resigned, died, become
13 incapacitated, are no longer qualified to serve, or have declined to serve.

14 (3) Except as otherwise provided in the power of attorney and subdivision (4), an agent
15 that does not participate in or conceal a breach of fiduciary duty committed by
16 another agent, including a predecessor agent, is not liable for the actions of the other
17 agent.

18 (4) An agent that has actual knowledge of a breach or imminent breach of fiduciary duty
19 by another agent shall notify the principal and, if the principal is incapacitated, take
20 any action reasonably appropriate in the circumstances to safeguard the principal's
21 best interest. An agent that fails to notify the principal or take action as required by
22 this subdivision is liable for any reasonably foreseeable damages that could have
23 been avoided if the agent had notified the principal or taken any action under this
24 section.

1 Section 11. That the code be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

2 Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides, an agent is entitled to reimbursement of
3 expenses reasonably incurred on behalf of the principal and to compensation that is reasonable
4 under the circumstances.

5 Section 12. That the code be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

6 Except as otherwise provided in the power of attorney, a person accepts appointment as an
7 agent under a power of attorney by exercising authority or performing duties as an agent or by
8 any other assertion or conduct indicating acceptance.

9 Section 13. That the code be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

10 (1) Notwithstanding provisions in the power of attorney, an agent that has accepted
11 appointment shall:

12 (a) Act in accordance with the principal's reasonable expectations to the extent
13 actually known by the agent and otherwise in the principal's best interest;

14 (b) Act in good faith;

15 (c) Act only within the scope of authority granted in the power of attorney; and

16 (d) If feasible, encourage the principal to participate in decisions, to act on the
17 principal's own behalf, and to develop or regain the capacity to manage the
18 principal's own affairs, if the principal is incapacitated.

19 (2) Except as otherwise provided in the power of attorney, an agent that has accepted
20 appointment shall:

21 (a) Act loyally for the principal's benefit;

22 (b) Act so as not to create a conflict of interest that impairs the agent's ability to
23 act impartially in the principal's best interest;

24 (c) Act with the care, competence, and diligence ordinarily exercised by agents

- 1 in similar circumstances;
- 2 (d) Keep an accurate and contemporaneous record of any receipt, disbursement,
3 and transaction made on behalf of the principal including any reimbursement
4 or compensation pursuant to section 11 of this Act;
- 5 (e) Cooperate with a person that has authority to make health care decisions for
6 the principal to carry out the principal's reasonable expectations to the extent
7 actually known by the agent and otherwise act in the principal's best interest;
8 and
- 9 (f) Attempt to preserve the principal's estate plan, to the extent actually known by
10 the agent, if preserving the plan is consistent with the principal's best interest
11 based on all relevant factors, including:
- 12 (i) The value and nature of the principal's property;
- 13 (ii) The principal's foreseeable obligations and need for maintenance;
- 14 (iii) Minimization of taxes, including income, estate, inheritance,
15 generation-skipping transfer, and gift taxes; and
- 16 (iv) Eligibility for a benefit, a program, or assistance under a statute or
17 regulation.
- 18 (3) An agent that acts in good faith is not liable to any beneficiary of the principal's estate
19 plan for failure to preserve the plan.
- 20 (4) An agent that acts with care, competence, and diligence for the best interest of the
21 principal is not liable solely because the agent also benefits from the act or has an
22 individual or conflicting interest in relation to the property or affairs of the principal.
- 23 (5) If an agent is selected by the principal because of the agent's special skills or
24 expertise or in reliance on the agent's representation that the agent has special skills

1 or expertise, the special skills or expertise shall be considered in determining whether
2 the agent has acted with care, competence, and diligence under the circumstances.

3 (6) Absent a breach of duty to the principal, an agent is not liable if the value of the
4 principal's property declines.

5 (7) An agent that exercises authority to delegate to another person the authority granted
6 by the principal or that engages another person on behalf of the principal is not liable
7 for an act, error of judgment, or default of that person if the agent exercises care,
8 competence, and diligence in selecting, instructing, and monitoring the person.

9 (8) Except as otherwise provided in the power of attorney, an agent is not required to
10 disclose receipts, disbursements, or transactions conducted on behalf of the principal
11 unless ordered by a court or requested by the principal, a guardian, a conservator,
12 another fiduciary acting for the principal, a governmental agency having authority to
13 protect the welfare of the principal, or, upon the death of the principal, by the
14 personal representative or successor in interest of the principal's estate. The agent
15 shall comply within thirty days with the request under this section or provide a
16 writing or other record explaining why additional time is needed and shall comply
17 with the request under this section within thirty days from the writing or other record.

18 Section 14. That the code be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

19 A provision in a power of attorney relieving an agent of liability for breach of duty is
20 binding on the principal and the principal's successors in interest except to the extent the
21 provision:

22 (1) Relieves the agent of liability for breach of duty committed dishonestly, with an
23 improper motive, or with reckless indifference to the purposes of the power of
24 attorney or the best interest of the principal; or

1 (2) Was inserted as a result of an abuse of a confidential or fiduciary relationship with
2 the principal.

3 Section 15. That the code be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

4 (1) In addition to any petition under chapter 21-65, the following persons may petition
5 a court to construe a power of attorney or review the agent's conduct, and grant
6 appropriate relief:

- 7 (a) The principal or the agent;
- 8 (b) A guardian, conservator, or other fiduciary acting for the principal;
- 9 (c) A person authorized to make health care decisions for the principal;
- 10 (d) The principal's spouse, parent, or descendant;
- 11 (e) An individual who would qualify as a presumptive heir of the principal;
- 12 (f) A person named as a beneficiary to receive any property, benefit, or
13 contractual right on the principal's death or as a beneficiary of a trust created
14 by or for the principal that has a financial interest in the principal's estate;
- 15 (g) A governmental agency having regulatory authority to protect the welfare of
16 the principal;
- 17 (h) The principal's caregiver or another person that demonstrates sufficient interest
18 in the principal's welfare; and
- 19 (i) A person asked to accept the power of attorney.

20 (2) Upon motion by the principal, the court shall dismiss a petition filed under this
21 section, unless the court finds that the principal lacks capacity to revoke the agent's
22 authority or the power of attorney.

23 Section 16. That the code be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

24 An agent that violates the provisions of this Act is liable to the principal or the principal's

1 successors in interest for the amount required to:

- 2 (1) Restore the value of the principal's property to its value had the violation not
3 occurred; and
- 4 (2) Reimburse the principal or the principal's successors in interest for any attorney's fees
5 and costs paid on the agent's behalf.

6 Section 17. That the code be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

7 Unless otherwise provided in the power of attorney, an agent may resign by giving notice
8 to the principal and, if the principal is incapacitated, to the guardian, if any, and any co-agent
9 or successor agent, or to:

- 10 (1) The principal's caregiver; or
- 11 (2) If there is no principal caregiver, to:
 - 12 (a) Another person reasonably believed by the agent to have sufficient interest in
13 the principal's welfare; or
 - 14 (b) A governmental agency having authority to protect the welfare of the
15 principal.

16 Section 18. That the code be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

- 17 (1) For purposes of this section and section 19 of this Act, the term, South Dakota
18 compliant, means a power of attorney signed by the principal and substantially in the
19 form provided in section 41 of this Act and witnessed by two or more other adult
20 individuals, or purportedly verified before a notary public or other individual
21 authorized to take acknowledgements, or both.
- 22 (2) A person that in good faith accepts a South Dakota compliant power of attorney
23 without actual knowledge that the signature is not genuine may rely upon a
24 presumption that the signature is genuine.

1 (3) A person that in good faith accepts a South Dakota compliant power of attorney
2 without actual knowledge that the power of attorney is void, invalid, or terminated;
3 that the purported agent's authority is void, invalid, or terminated; or that the agent
4 is exceeding or improperly exercising the agent's authority may rely upon the power
5 of attorney as if the power of attorney were genuine, valid, and still in effect; the
6 agent's authority were genuine, valid, and still in effect; and the agent had not
7 exceeded and had properly exercised the authority.

8 (4) A person that is asked to accept a South Dakota compliant power of attorney may
9 request, and rely upon, without further investigation:

10 (a) An agent's certification under penalty of perjury of any factual matter
11 concerning the principal, agent, or power of attorney;

12 (b) An English translation of the power of attorney if the power of attorney
13 contains, in whole or in part, language other than English; and

14 (c) An opinion of counsel as to any matter of law concerning the power of
15 attorney if the person making the request provides in a writing or other record
16 the reason for the request.

17 (5) An English translation or an opinion of counsel requested under this section shall be
18 provided at the principal's expense unless the request is made more than seven
19 business days after the power of attorney is presented for acceptance.

20 (6) For purposes of this section and section 19 of this Act, a person that conducts
21 activities through employees is without actual knowledge of a fact relating to a power
22 of attorney, a principal, or an agent if the employee conducting the transaction
23 involving the power of attorney is without actual knowledge of the fact.

24 Section 19. That the code be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

1 (1) A person shall accept a South Dakota compliant power of attorney or request a
2 certification, a translation, or an opinion of counsel under subdivision (4) of section
3 18 of this Act no later than seven business days after presentation of the power of
4 attorney for acceptance. If a person requests a certification, a translation, or an
5 opinion of counsel under subdivision (4) of section 18 of this Act, the person shall
6 accept the power of attorney no later than five business days after receipt of the
7 certification, translation, or opinion of counsel. A person may not require an
8 additional or different form of power of attorney for authority granted in the power
9 of attorney presented.

10 (2) A person is not required to accept a South Dakota compliant power of attorney if:
11 (a) The person is not otherwise required to engage in a transaction with the
12 principal in the same circumstances;
13 (b) Engaging in a transaction with the agent or the principal in the same
14 circumstances would be inconsistent with federal law;
15 (c) The person has actual knowledge of the termination of the agent's authority or
16 of the power of attorney before exercise of the power;
17 (d) A request for a certification, a translation, or an opinion of counsel under
18 subdivision (4) of section 18 of this Act is refused;
19 (e) The person in good faith believes that the power is not valid or that the agent
20 does not have the authority to perform the act requested, whether or not a
21 certification, a translation, or an opinion of counsel under subdivision (4) of
22 section 18 of this Act has been requested or provided; or
23 (f) The person makes, or has actual knowledge that another person has made, a
24 report to the South Dakota Department of Social Services or an office of a

1 state's attorney stating a good faith belief that the principal may be subject to
2 physical or financial abuse, neglect, exploitation, or abandonment by the agent
3 or a person acting for or with the agent.

4 (3) A person that refuses in violation of this section to accept a South Dakota compliant
5 power of attorney is subject to:

6 (a) A court order mandating acceptance of the power of attorney; and

7 (b) Liability for reasonable attorney's fees and costs incurred in any action or
8 proceeding that confirms the validity of the power of attorney or mandates
9 acceptance of the power of attorney.

10 Section 20. That the code be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

11 Unless otherwise required under this Act, the principles of law and equity apply to the
12 provisions of this Act.

13 Section 21. That the code be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

14 Nothing in this Act may be interpreted to amend or supersede any other law applicable to
15 financial institutions or other entities.

16 Section 22. That the code be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

17 The remedies under this Act are not exclusive and do not abrogate any right or remedy under
18 the laws of this state.

19 Section 23. That the code be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

20 (1) An agent under a power of attorney may do the following on behalf of the principal
21 or with the principal's property only if the power of attorney expressly grants the
22 agent the authority and exercise of the authority is not otherwise prohibited by
23 another agreement or instrument to which the authority or property is subject:

24 (a) Create, amend, revoke, or terminate an inter vivos trust;

- 1 (b) Make a gift;
 - 2 (c) Create or change rights of survivorship;
 - 3 (d) Create or change a beneficiary designation;
 - 4 (e) Delegate authority granted under the power of attorney;
 - 5 (f) Waive the principal's right to be a beneficiary of a joint and survivor annuity,
 - 6 including a survivor benefit under a retirement plan;
 - 7 (g) Exercise fiduciary powers that the principal has authority to delegate;
 - 8 (h) Exercise authority over the content of electronic communications, as defined
 - 9 in 18 U.S.C. § 2510(12) and as provided under chapter 55-19, which are sent
 - 10 or received by the principal; or
 - 11 (i) Disclaim property, including a power of appointment.
- 12 (2) Notwithstanding a grant of authority to do an act described in subdivision (1), unless
- 13 the power of attorney otherwise provides, an agent that is not an ancestor, spouse, or
- 14 descendant of the principal, may not exercise authority under a power of attorney to
- 15 create in the agent, or in an individual to whom the agent owes a legal obligation of
- 16 support, an interest in the principal's property, whether by gift, right of survivorship,
- 17 beneficiary designation, disclaimer, or otherwise.
- 18 (3) Subject to subdivisions (1), (2), (4), and (5) of this section, if a power of attorney
- 19 grants to an agent authority to do all acts that a principal could do, the agent has the
- 20 general authority described in sections 26 to 38 of this Act, inclusive.
- 21 (4) Unless otherwise provided by the power of attorney, a grant of authority to make a
- 22 gift is subject to section 39 of this Act.
- 23 (5) Subject to subdivisions (1), (2), and (4) of this section, if the subjects over which
- 24 authority is granted in a power of attorney are similar or overlap, the broadest

1 authority controls.

2 (6) Authority granted in a power of attorney is exercisable with respect to property that
3 the principal has when the power of attorney is executed or acquires later, whether
4 or not the property is located in this state and whether or not the authority is
5 exercised or the power of attorney is executed in this state.

6 (7) An act performed by an agent pursuant to a power of attorney has the same effect and
7 inures to the benefit of and binds the principal and the principal's successors in
8 interest as if the principal had performed the act.

9 (8) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1), an agent may amend, terminate,
10 or revoke an inter vivos revocable trust only when the settlor is incapacitated or not
11 reasonably available and to the extent expressly authorized by the power of attorney
12 with specific reference to the trust and expressly authorized by the terms of the
13 governing trust instrument.

14 Section 24. That the code be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

15 (1) An agent has authority described in this Act if the power of attorney refers to general
16 authority with respect to the descriptive term for the subjects stated in sections 26 to
17 39 of this Act, inclusive, or cites the section in which the authority is described.

18 (2) A reference in a power of attorney to general authority with respect to the descriptive
19 term for a subject in sections 26 to 39 of this Act, inclusive, or a citation to a section
20 of sections 26 to 39 of this Act, inclusive, incorporates the entire section as if it were
21 set out in full in the power of attorney.

22 (3) A principal may modify authority incorporated by reference.

23 Section 25. That the code be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

24 Except as otherwise provided in the power of attorney, by executing a power of attorney that

1 incorporates by reference a subject described in sections 26 to 39 of this Act, inclusive, or that
2 grants to an agent authority to do all acts that a principal could do pursuant to subdivision (3)
3 of section 23 of this Act, a principal authorizes the agent, regarding that subject, to:

4 (1) Demand, receive, and obtain by litigation or otherwise, money or another thing of
5 value to which the principal is, may become, or claims to be entitled, and conserve,
6 invest, disburse, or use anything so received or obtained for the purposes intended;

7 (2) Contract in any manner with any person, on terms agreeable to the agent, to
8 accomplish a purpose of a transaction and perform, rescind, cancel, terminate,
9 reform, restate, release, or modify the contract or another contract made by or on
10 behalf of the principal;

11 (3) Execute, acknowledge, seal, deliver, file, or record any instrument or communication
12 the agent considers desirable to accomplish a purpose of a transaction, including
13 creating at any time a schedule listing some or all of the principal's property and
14 attaching it to the power of attorney;

15 (4) Initiate, participate in, submit to alternative dispute resolution, settle, oppose, or
16 propose or accept a compromise with respect to a claim existing in favor of or against
17 the principal or intervene in litigation relating to the claim;

18 (5) Seek on the principal's behalf the assistance of a court or other governmental agency
19 to carry out an act authorized in the power of attorney;

20 (6) Engage, compensate, and discharge an attorney, accountant, discretionary investment
21 manager, expert witness, or other advisor;

22 (7) Prepare, execute, and file a record, report, or other document to safeguard or promote
23 the principal's interest under a statute or regulation;

24 (8) Communicate with any representative or employee of a government or governmental

1 subdivision, agency, or instrumentality, on behalf of the principal;

2 (9) Access communications intended for, and communicate on behalf of the principal,
3 whether by mail, electronic transmission, telephone, or other means; and

4 (10) Do any lawful act with respect to the subject and all property related to the subject.

5 Section 26. That the code be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

6 Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides, language in a power of attorney granting
7 general authority with respect to real property authorizes the agent to:

8 (1) Demand, buy, lease, receive, accept as a gift or as security for an extension of credit,
9 or otherwise acquire or reject an interest in real property or a right incident to real
10 property;

11 (2) Sell; exchange; convey with or without covenants, representations, or warranties;
12 quitclaim; release; surrender; retain title for security; encumber; partition; consent to
13 partitioning; subject to an easement or covenant; subdivide; apply for zoning or other
14 governmental permits; plat or consent to platting; develop; grant an option
15 concerning; lease; sublease; contribute to an entity in exchange for an interest in that
16 entity; or otherwise grant or dispose of an interest in real property or a right incident
17 to real property;

18 (3) Pledge or mortgage an interest in real property or right incident to real property as
19 security to borrow money or pay, renew, or extend the time of payment of a debt of
20 the principal or a debt guaranteed by the principal;

21 (4) Release, assign, satisfy, or enforce by litigation or otherwise a mortgage, deed of
22 trust, conditional sale contract, encumbrance, lien, or other claim to real property
23 which exists or is asserted;

24 (5) Manage or conserve an interest in real property or a right incident to real property

1 owned or claimed to be owned by the principal, including:

2 (a) Insuring against liability or casualty or other loss;

3 (b) Obtaining or regaining possession of or protecting the interest or right by
4 litigation or otherwise;

5 (c) Paying, assessing, compromising, or contesting taxes or assessments or
6 applying for and receiving refunds in connection with them; and

7 (d) Purchasing supplies, hiring assistance or labor, and making repairs or
8 alterations to the real property;

9 (6) Use, develop, alter, replace, remove, erect, or install structures or other improvements
10 upon real property in or incident to which the principal has, or claims to have, an
11 interest or right;

12 (7) Participate in a reorganization with respect to real property or an entity that owns an
13 interest in or right incident to real property and receive, and hold, and act with respect
14 to stocks and bonds or other property received in a plan of reorganization, including:

15 (a) Selling or otherwise disposing of them;

16 (b) Exercising or selling an option, right of conversion, or similar right with
17 respect to them; and

18 (c) Exercising any voting rights in person or by proxy;

19 (8) Change the form of title of an interest in or right incident to real property; and

20 (9) Dedicate to public use, with or without consideration, easements or other real
21 property in which the principal has, or claims to have, an interest.

22 Section 27. That the code be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

23 Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides, language in a power of attorney granting
24 general authority with respect to tangible personal property authorizes the agent to:

- 1 (1) Demand, buy, receive, accept as a gift or as security for an extension of credit, or
2 otherwise acquire or reject ownership or possession of tangible personal property or
3 an interest in tangible personal property;
- 4 (2) Sell; exchange; convey with or without covenants, representations, or warranties;
5 quitclaim; release; surrender; create a security interest in; grant options concerning;
6 lease; sublease; or otherwise dispose of tangible personal property or an interest in
7 tangible personal property;
- 8 (3) Grant a security interest in tangible personal property or an interest in tangible
9 personal property as security to borrow money or pay, renew, or extend the time of
10 payment of a debt of the principal or a debt guaranteed by the principal;
- 11 (4) Release, assign, satisfy, or enforce by litigation or otherwise, a security interest, lien,
12 or other claim on behalf of the principal, with respect to tangible personal property
13 or an interest in tangible personal property;
- 14 (5) Manage or conserve tangible personal property or an interest in tangible personal
15 property on behalf of the principal, including:
 - 16 (a) Insuring against liability, casualty, or other loss;
 - 17 (b) Obtaining or regaining possession of or protecting the property or interest by
18 litigation or otherwise;
 - 19 (c) Paying, assessing, compromising, or contesting taxes or assessments, or
20 applying for and receiving refunds in connection with taxes or assessments;
 - 21 (d) Relocating the property;
 - 22 (e) Storing the property for hire or on a gratuitous bailment; and
 - 23 (f) Using and making repairs, alterations, or improvements to the property; and
- 24 (6) Change the form of title of an interest in tangible personal property.

1 Section 28. That the code be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

2 Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides, language in a power of attorney granting
3 general authority with respect to stocks and bonds authorizes the agent to:

4 (1) Buy, sell, and exchange stocks and bonds;

5 (2) Establish, continue, modify, or terminate an account with respect to stocks and
6 bonds;

7 (3) Pledge stocks and bonds as security to borrow, pay, renew, or extend the time of
8 payment of a debt of the principal;

9 (4) Receive certificates and other evidences of ownership with respect to stocks and
10 bonds; and

11 (5) Exercise voting rights with respect to stocks and bonds in person or by proxy, enter
12 into voting trusts, and consent to limitations on the right to vote.

13 Section 29. That the code be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

14 Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides, language in a power of attorney granting
15 general authority with respect to commodities and options authorizes the agent to:

16 (1) Buy, sell, exchange, assign, settle, and exercise commodity futures contracts and call
17 or put options on stocks or stock indexes traded on a regulated option exchange; and

18 (2) Establish, continue, modify, and terminate option accounts.

19 Section 30. That the code be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

20 Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides, language in a power of attorney granting
21 general authority with respect to banks and other financial institutions authorizes the agent to:

22 (1) Continue, modify, and terminate an account or other banking arrangement made by
23 or on behalf of the principal;

24 (2) Establish, modify, and terminate an account or other banking arrangement with a

- 1 bank, trust company, savings and loan association, credit union, thrift company,
2 brokerage firm, or other financial institution selected by the agent;
- 3 (3) Contract for services available from a financial institution, including renting a safe
4 deposit box or space in a vault;
- 5 (4) Withdraw, by check, order, electronic funds transfer, or otherwise, money or property
6 of the principal deposited with or left in the custody of a financial institution;
- 7 (5) Receive statements of account, vouchers, notices, and similar documents from a
8 financial institution and act with respect to them;
- 9 (6) Enter a safe deposit box or vault and withdraw or add to the contents;
- 10 (7) Borrow money and pledge as security personal property of the principal necessary to
11 borrow money or pay, renew, or extend the time of payment of a debt of the principal
12 or a debt guaranteed by the principal;
- 13 (8) Make, assign, draw, endorse, discount, guarantee, and negotiate promissory notes,
14 checks, drafts, and other negotiable or nonnegotiable paper of the principal or
15 payable to the principal or the principal's order, transfer money, receive the cash or
16 other proceeds of those transactions, and accept a draft drawn by a person upon the
17 principal and pay it when due;
- 18 (9) Receive for the principal and act upon a sight draft, warehouse receipt, or other
19 document of title whether tangible or electronic, or other negotiable or nonnegotiable
20 instrument;
- 21 (10) Apply for, receive, and use letters of credit, credit and debit cards, electronic
22 transaction authorizations, and traveler's checks from a financial institution and give
23 an indemnity or other agreement in connection with letters of credit; and
- 24 (11) Consent to an extension of the time of payment with respect to commercial paper or

1 a financial transaction with a financial institution.

2 Section 31. That the code be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

3 Subject to the terms of the governing instrument of an entity or an entity ownership interest,
4 and unless the power of attorney otherwise provides, language in a power of attorney granting
5 general authority regarding operation of an entity or business authorizes the agent to:

- 6 (1) Operate, buy, sell, enlarge, reduce, or terminate an ownership interest;
- 7 (2) Perform a duty or discharge a liability and exercise in person or by proxy a right,
8 power, privilege, or option that the principal has, may have, or claims to have;
- 9 (3) Enforce the terms of an ownership agreement;
- 10 (4) Initiate, participate in, submit to alternative dispute resolution, settle, oppose, or
11 propose or accept a compromise with respect to litigation to which the principal is
12 a party because of an ownership interest;
- 13 (5) Exercise in person or by proxy, or enforce by litigation or otherwise, a right, power,
14 privilege, or option the principal has or claims to have as the holder of stocks and
15 bonds;
- 16 (6) Initiate, participate in, submit to alternative dispute resolution, settle, oppose, or
17 propose or accept a compromise with respect to litigation to which the principal is
18 a party concerning stocks and bonds;
- 19 (7) With respect to an entity or business owned solely by the principal:
 - 20 (a) Continue, modify, renegotiate, extend, and terminate a contract made by or on
21 behalf of the principal with respect to the entity or business before execution
22 of the power of attorney;
 - 23 (b) Determine:
 - 24 (i) The location of its operation;

- 1 (ii) The nature and extent of its business;
- 2 (iii) The methods of manufacturing, selling, merchandising, financing,
- 3 accounting, and advertising employed in its operation;
- 4 (iv) The amount and types of insurance carried; and
- 5 (v) The mode of engaging, compensating, and dealing with its employees
- 6 and accountants, attorneys, or other advisors;
- 7 (c) Change the name or form of organization under which the entity or business
- 8 is operated and enter into an ownership agreement with other persons to take
- 9 over all or part of the operation of the entity or business; and
- 10 (d) Demand and receive money due or claimed by the principal or on the
- 11 principal's behalf in the operation of the entity or business and control and
- 12 disburse the money in the operation of the entity or business;
- 13 (8) Put additional capital into an entity or business in which the principal has an interest;
- 14 (9) Join in a plan of reorganization, consolidation, conversion, domestication, or merger
- 15 of the entity or business;
- 16 (10) Sell or liquidate all or part of an entity or business;
- 17 (11) Establish the value of an entity or business under a buy-out agreement to which the
- 18 principal is a party;
- 19 (12) Prepare, sign, file, and deliver reports, compilations of information, returns, or other
- 20 papers with respect to an entity or business and make related payments; and
- 21 (13) Pay, compromise, or contest taxes, assessments, fines, or penalties and perform any
- 22 other act to protect the principal from illegal or unnecessary taxation, assessments,
- 23 fines, or penalties, with respect to an entity or business, including attempts to recover,
- 24 in any manner permitted by law, money paid before or after the execution of the

1 power of attorney.

2 Section 32. That the code be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

3 Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides, language in a power of attorney granting
4 general authority with respect to insurance and annuities authorizes the agent to:

5 (1) Continue, pay the premium or make a contribution on, modify, exchange, rescind,
6 release, or terminate a contract procured by or on behalf of the principal that insures
7 or provides an annuity to either the principal or another person, whether or not the
8 principal is a beneficiary under the contract;

9 (2) Procure new, different, and additional contracts of insurance and annuities for the
10 principal and the principal's spouse, children, and other dependents, and select the
11 amount, type of insurance or annuity, and mode of payment;

12 (3) Pay the premium or make a contribution on, modify, exchange, rescind, release, or
13 terminate a contract of insurance or annuity procured by the agent;

14 (4) Apply for and receive a loan secured by a contract of insurance or annuity;

15 (5) Surrender and receive the cash surrender value on a contract of insurance or annuity;

16 (6) Exercise an election;

17 (7) Exercise investment powers available under a contract of insurance or annuity;

18 (8) Change the manner of paying premiums on a contract of insurance or annuity;

19 (9) Change or convert the type of insurance or annuity with respect to which the
20 principal has or claims to have authority described in this section;

21 (10) Apply for and procure a benefit or assistance under a statute or regulation to
22 guarantee or pay premiums of a contract of insurance on the life of the principal;

23 (11) Collect, sell, assign, hypothecate, borrow against, or pledge the interest of the
24 principal in a contract of insurance or annuity;

1 (12) Select the form and timing of the payment of proceeds from a contract of insurance
2 or annuity; and

3 (13) Pay, from proceeds or otherwise, compromise or contest, and apply for refunds in
4 connection with, a tax or assessment levied by a taxing authority with respect to a
5 contract of insurance or annuity or its proceeds or liability accruing by reason of the
6 tax or assessment.

7 Section 33. That the code be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

8 (1) For purposes of this section, the terms, estate, trust, or other beneficial interest, mean
9 a trust, probate estate, guardianship, conservatorship, escrow, or custodianship or a
10 fund from which the principal is, may become, or claims to be, entitled to a share or
11 payment.

12 (2) Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides, language in a power of attorney
13 granting general authority with respect to estates, trusts, and other beneficial interests
14 authorizes the agent to:

15 (a) Accept, receive, receipt for, sell, assign, pledge, or exchange a share in or
16 payment from an estate, trust, or other beneficial interest;

17 (b) Demand or obtain money or another thing of value to which the principal is,
18 may become, or claims to be, entitled by reason of an estate, trust, or other
19 beneficial interest, by litigation or otherwise;

20 (c) Exercise for the benefit of the principal a presently exercisable general power
21 of appointment held by the principal;

22 (d) Initiate, participate in, submit to alternative dispute resolution, settle, oppose,
23 or propose or accept a compromise with respect to litigation to ascertain the
24 meaning, validity, or effect of a deed, will, declaration of trust, or other

- 1 instrument or transaction affecting the interest of the principal;
- 2 (e) Initiate, participate in, submit to alternative dispute resolution, settle, oppose,
- 3 or propose or accept a compromise with respect to litigation to remove,
- 4 substitute, or surcharge a fiduciary;
- 5 (f) Conserve, invest, disburse, or use anything received for an authorized purpose;
- 6 (g) Transfer an interest of the principal in real property, stocks and bonds,
- 7 accounts with financial institutions or securities intermediaries, insurance,
- 8 annuities, and other property to the trustee of a revocable trust created by the
- 9 principal as settlor; and
- 10 (h) Act as a representative pursuant to subdivision 55-18-9(8), except as otherwise
- 11 provided in subdivision (8) of section 23 of this Act.

12 Section 34. That the code be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

13 Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides, language in a power of attorney granting
14 general authority with respect to claims and litigation authorizes the agent to:

- 15 (1) Assert and maintain before a court or administrative agency a claim, claim for relief,
- 16 cause of action, counterclaim, offset, recoupment, or defense, including an action to
- 17 recover property or other thing of value, recover damages sustained by the principal,
- 18 eliminate or modify tax liability, or seek an injunction, specific performance, or other
- 19 relief;
- 20 (2) Bring an action to determine adverse claims or intervene or otherwise participate in
- 21 litigation;
- 22 (3) Seek an attachment, garnishment, order of arrest, or other preliminary, provisional,
- 23 or intermediate relief and use an available procedure to effect or satisfy a judgment,
- 24 order, or decree;

- 1 (4) Make or accept a tender, offer of judgment, or admission of facts, submit a
2 controversy on an agreed statement of facts, consent to examination, and bind the
3 principal in litigation;
- 4 (5) Submit to alternative dispute resolution, settle, and propose or accept a compromise;
- 5 (6) Waive the issuance and service of process upon the principal, accept service of
6 process, appear for the principal, designate persons upon which process directed to
7 the principal may be served, execute and file or deliver stipulations on the principal's
8 behalf, verify pleadings, seek appellate review, procure and give surety and
9 indemnity bonds, contract and pay for the preparation and printing of records and
10 briefs, receive, execute, and file or deliver a consent, waiver, release, confession of
11 judgment, satisfaction of judgment, notice, agreement, or other instrument in
12 connection with the prosecution, settlement, or defense of a claim or litigation;
- 13 (7) Act for the principal with respect to bankruptcy or insolvency, whether voluntary or
14 involuntary, concerning the principal or some other person, or with respect to a
15 reorganization, receivership, or application for the appointment of a receiver or
16 trustee which affects an interest of the principal in property or other thing of value;
- 17 (8) Pay a judgment, award, or order against the principal or a settlement made in
18 connection with a claim or litigation; and
- 19 (9) Receive money or other thing of value paid in settlement of or as proceeds of a claim
20 or litigation.

21 Section 35. That the code be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

- 22 (1) Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides, language in a power of attorney
23 granting general authority with respect to personal and family maintenance authorizes
24 the agent to:

- 1 (a) Perform the acts necessary to maintain the customary standard of living of the
2 principal, the principal's spouse, and the following individuals, whether living
3 when the power of attorney is executed or later born:
 - 4 (i) The principal's children;
 - 5 (ii) Other individuals legally entitled to be supported by the principal; and
 - 6 (iii) The individuals whom the principal has customarily supported or
7 indicated the intent to support;
- 8 (b) Make periodic payments of child support and other family maintenance
9 required by a court or governmental agency or an agreement to which the
10 principal is a party;
- 11 (c) Provide living quarters for the individuals described in subsection (1)(a) by:
 - 12 (i) Purchase, lease, or other contract; or
 - 13 (ii) Paying the operating costs, including interest, amortization payments,
14 repairs, improvements, and taxes, for premises owned by the principal
15 or occupied by those individuals;
- 16 (d) Provide normal domestic help, usual vacations and travel expenses, and funds
17 for shelter, clothing, food, appropriate education, including postsecondary and
18 vocational education, and other current living costs for the individuals
19 described in subsection (1)(a);
- 20 (e) Pay expenses for necessary health care and custodial care on behalf of the
21 individuals described in subsection (1)(a);
- 22 (f) Act as the principal's personal representative pursuant to the Health Insurance
23 Portability and Accountability Act, sections 1171 to 1179, inclusive, of the
24 Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1320(d), and applicable regulations, in

1 making decisions related to the past, present, or future payment for the
2 provision of health care consented to by the principal or anyone authorized
3 under the law of this state to consent to health care on behalf of the principal;

4 (g) Continue any provision made by the principal for automobiles or other means
5 of transportation, including registering, licensing, insuring, and replacing
6 them, for the individuals described in subsection (1)(a);

7 (h) Maintain credit and debit accounts for the convenience of the individuals
8 described in subsection (1)(a) and open new accounts; and

9 (i) Continue payments incidental to the membership or affiliation of the principal
10 in a religious institution, club, society, order, or other organization or to
11 continue contributions to those organizations.

12 (2) Authority with respect to personal and family maintenance is neither dependent upon,
13 nor limited by, authority that an agent may or may not have with respect to gifts
14 under this Act.

15 Section 36. That the code be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

16 (1) For purposes of this section, the terms, benefits from governmental programs, or civil
17 or military service, mean any benefit, program, or assistance provided under a statute
18 or regulation including Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.

19 (2) Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides, language in a power of attorney
20 granting general authority with respect to benefits from governmental programs or
21 civil or military service authorizes the agent to:

22 (a) Execute vouchers in the name of the principal for allowances and
23 reimbursements payable by the United States or a foreign government or by
24 a state or political subdivision of a state to the principal, including allowances

1 and reimbursements for transportation of the individuals described in
2 subsection (1)(a) of section 35 of this Act, and for shipment of their household
3 effects;

4 (b) Take possession and order the removal and shipment of property of the
5 principal from a post, warehouse, depot, dock, or other place of storage or
6 safekeeping, either governmental or private, and execute and deliver a release,
7 voucher, receipt, bill of lading, shipping ticket, certificate, or other instrument
8 for that purpose;

9 (c) Enroll in, apply for, select, reject, change, amend, or discontinue, on the
10 principal's behalf, a benefit or program;

11 (d) Prepare, file, and maintain a claim of the principal for a benefit or assistance,
12 financial or otherwise, to which the principal may be entitled under a statute
13 or regulation;

14 (e) Initiate, participate in, submit to alternative dispute resolution, settle, oppose,
15 or propose or accept a compromise with respect to litigation concerning any
16 benefit or assistance the principal may be entitled to receive under a statute or
17 regulation; and

18 (f) Receive the financial proceeds of a claim described in paragraph (d) and
19 conserve, invest, disburse, or use for a lawful purpose anything so received.

20 Section 37. That the code be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

21 (1) For purposes of this section, the term, retirement plan, means a plan or account
22 created by an employer, the principal, or another individual to provide retirement
23 benefits or deferred compensation of which the principal is a participant, beneficiary,
24 or owner, including a plan or account under the following sections of the Internal

1 Revenue Code:

- 2 (a) An individual retirement account under 26 U.S.C. § 408;
- 3 (b) A Roth individual retirement account under 26 U.S.C. § 408A;
- 4 (c) A deemed individual retirement account under 26 U.S.C. § 408(q);
- 5 (d) An annuity or mutual fund custodial account under 26 U.S.C. § 403(b);
- 6 (e) A pension, profit-sharing, stock bonus, or other retirement plan qualified
- 7 under 26 U.S.C. § 401(a);
- 8 (f) A plan under 26 U.S.C. § 457(b); and
- 9 (g) A nonqualified deferred compensation plan under 26 U.S.C. § 409A.

10 (2) Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides, language in a power of attorney

11 granting general authority with respect to retirement plans authorizes the agent to:

- 12 (a) Select the form and timing of payments under a retirement plan and withdraw
- 13 benefits from a plan;
- 14 (b) Make a rollover, including a direct trustee-to-trustee rollover, of benefits from
- 15 one retirement plan to another;
- 16 (c) Establish a retirement plan in the principal's name;
- 17 (d) Make contributions to a retirement plan;
- 18 (e) Exercise investment powers available under a retirement plan; and
- 19 (f) Borrow from, sell assets to, or purchase assets from a retirement plan.

20 Section 38. That the code be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

21 Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides, language in a power of attorney granting

22 general authority with respect to taxes authorizes the agent to:

- 23 (1) Prepare, sign, and file federal, state, local, and foreign income, gift, payroll, property,
- 24 Federal Insurance Contributions Act, and other tax returns, claims for refunds,

1 requests for extension of time, petitions regarding tax matters, and any other
2 tax-related documents, including receipts, offers, waivers, consents, including
3 consents and agreements under 26 U.S.C. § 2032A, closing agreements, and any
4 power of attorney required by the Internal Revenue Service or other taxing authority
5 with respect to a tax year upon which the statute of limitations has not run and the
6 following twenty-five tax years;

7 (2) Pay taxes due, collect refunds, post bonds, receive confidential information, and
8 contest deficiencies determined by the Internal Revenue Service or other taxing
9 authority;

10 (3) Exercise any election available to the principal under federal, state, local, or foreign
11 tax law; and

12 (4) Act for the principal in all tax matters for all periods before the Internal Revenue
13 Service, or other taxing authority.

14 Section 39. That the code be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

15 (1) For purposes of this section, a gift "for the benefit of" a person includes a gift to a
16 trust, an account under the Uniform Transfers to Minors Act (1983/1986), and a
17 tuition savings account or prepaid tuition plan as defined under 26 U.S.C. § 529.

18 (2) Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides, language in a power of attorney
19 granting general authority with respect to gifts authorizes the agent only to:

20 (a) Make outright to, or for the benefit of, a person, a gift of any of the principal's
21 property, including by the exercise of a presently exercisable general power
22 of appointment held by the principal, in an amount per donee not to exceed the
23 annual dollar limits of the federal gift tax exclusion under 26 U.S.C.
24 § 2503(b), without regard to whether the federal gift tax exclusion applies to

1 the gift, or if the principal's spouse agrees to consent to a split gift pursuant to
2 26 U.S.C. § 2513, in an amount per donee not to exceed twice the annual
3 federal gift tax exclusion limit; and

4 (b) Consent, pursuant to 26 U.S.C. § 2513, to the splitting of a gift made by the
5 principal's spouse in an amount per donee not to exceed the aggregate annual
6 gift tax exclusions for both spouses.

7 (3) An agent may make a gift of the principal's property only as the agent determines is
8 consistent with the principal's objectives if actually known by the agent and, if
9 unknown, as the agent determines is consistent with the principal's best interest based
10 on all relevant factors, including:

- 11 (a) The value and nature of the principal's property;
- 12 (b) The principal's foreseeable obligations and need for maintenance;
- 13 (c) Minimization of taxes, including income, estate, inheritance,
14 generation-skipping transfer, and gift taxes;
- 15 (d) Eligibility for a benefit, a program, or assistance under a statute or regulation;
16 and
- 17 (e) The principal's personal history of making or joining in making gifts.

18 Section 40. That the code be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

19 Except as otherwise provided in this Act:

- 20 (1) This Act applies to a power of attorney created before, on, or after July 1, 2018;
- 21 (2) This Act applies to a judicial proceeding concerning a power of attorney commenced
22 on or after July 1, 2018;
- 23 (3) This Act applies to a judicial proceeding concerning a power of attorney commenced
24 before July 1, 2018, unless the court finds that application of a provision of this Act

1 would substantially interfere with the effective conduct of the judicial proceeding or
2 prejudice the rights of a party, in which case that provision does not apply and the
3 superseded law applies; and

4 (4) An act done before July 1, 2018 is not affected by this Act.

5 Section 41. That the code be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

6 A document substantially in the following form may be used to create a statutory form
7 power of attorney that has the meaning and effect prescribed by this Act. The provisions of
8 §§ 43-28-23 and 7-9-1 apply to any power of attorney that is to be recorded with the register of
9 deeds.

10 SOUTH DAKOTA

11 STATUTORY FORM POWER OF ATTORNEY

12 IMPORTANT INFORMATION

13 *This power of attorney authorizes another person (your agent) to make decisions concerning*
14 *your property for you (the principal). Your agent will be able to make decisions and act with*
15 *respect to your property (including your money) whether or not you are able to act for yourself.*
16 *The meaning of authority over subjects listed on this form is explained in the South Dakota*
17 *Uniform Power of Attorney Act.*

18 *This power of attorney does not authorize the agent to make health-care decisions for you.*

19 *You should select someone you trust to serve as your agent. Unless you specify otherwise,*
20 *generally the agent's authority will continue until you die or revoke the power of attorney or the*
21 *agent resigns or is unable to act for you.*

22 *Your agent is entitled to reasonable compensation unless you state otherwise in the Special*
23 *Instructions.*

24 *This form provides for designation of one agent. If you wish to name more than one agent*

1 you may name a co-agent in the Special Instructions. Co-agents are not required to act together
2 unless you include that requirement in the Special Instructions.

3 If your agent is unable or unwilling to act for you, your power of attorney will end unless
4 you have named a successor agent. You may also name a second successor agent.

5 This power of attorney becomes effective immediately unless you state otherwise in the
6 Special Instructions.

7 If you have questions about the power of attorney or the authority you are granting to
8 your agent, you should seek legal advice before signing this form.

9 DESIGNATION OF AGENT

10 I _____ name the following person as my agent:

11 (Name of Principal)

12 Name of Agent: _____

13 Agent's Address: _____

14 Agent's Telephone Number: _____

15 DESIGNATION OF SUCCESSOR AGENT(S) (OPTIONAL)

16 If my agent is unable or unwilling to act for me, I name as my successor agent:

17 Name of Successor Agent: _____

18 Successor Agent's Address: _____

19 Successor Agent's Telephone Number: _____

20 If my successor agent is unable or unwilling to act for me, I name as my second successor agent:

21 Name of Second Successor Agent: _____

22 Second Successor Agent's Address: _____

23 Second Successor Agent's Telephone Number: _____

24 GRANT OF GENERAL AUTHORITY

1 I grant my agent and any successor agent general authority to act for me with respect to the
2 following subjects as defined in the South Dakota Uniform Power of Attorney Act:

3 (INITIAL each subject you want to include in the agent's general authority. If you wish to grant
4 general authority over all of the subjects you may initial "All Preceding Subjects" instead of
5 initialing each subject.)

6 Real Property (section 26 of this Act)

7 Tangible Personal Property (section 27 of this Act)

8 Stocks and Bonds (section 28 of this Act)

9 Commodities and Options (section 29 of this Act)

10 Banks and Other Financial Institutions (section 30 of this Act)

11 Operation of Entity or Business (section 31 of this Act)

12 Insurance and Annuities (section 32 of this Act)

13 Estates, Trusts, and Other Beneficial Interests (section 33 of this Act)

14 Claims and Litigation (section 34 of this Act)

15 Personal and Family Maintenance (section 35 of this Act)

16 Benefits from Governmental Programs or Civil or Military Service (section 36 of this
17 Act)

18 Retirement Plans (section 37 of this Act)

19 Taxes (section 38 of this Act)

20 All Preceding Subjects (section 26 to 38 of this Act, inclusive)

21 **GRANT OF SPECIFIC AUTHORITY (OPTIONAL)**

22 My agent MAY NOT do any of the following specific acts for me UNLESS I have INITIALED
23 the specific authority listed below:

24 (CAUTION: Granting any of the following will give your agent the authority to take actions that

1 could significantly reduce your property or change how your property is distributed at your
2 death. INITIAL ONLY the specific authority you WANT to give your agent.)

3 (___) Create an inter vivos trust or amend, revoke, or terminate the (Name of Trust) dated
4 (Date)

5 (___) Make a gift, subject to the limitations of the South Dakota Uniform Power of Attorney
6 Act section 39 and any special instructions in this power of attorney

7 (___) Create or change rights of survivorship

8 (___) Create or change a beneficiary designation

9 (___) Authorize another person to exercise the authority granted under this power of attorney

10 (___) Waive the principal's right to be a beneficiary of a joint and survivor annuity, including
11 a survivor benefit under a retirement plan

12 (___) Exercise fiduciary powers that the principal has authority to delegate

13 (___) Access the content of electronic communications

14 (___) Disclaim or refuse an interest in property, including a power of appointment

15 **LIMITATION ON AGENT'S AUTHORITY**

16 An agent that is not my ancestor, spouse, or descendant MAY NOT use my property to benefit
17 the agent or a person to whom the agent owes an obligation of support unless I have included
18 that authority in the Special Instructions.

19 **SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS (OPTIONAL)**

20 (INITIAL if you wish for the agent to only have authority upon your incapacity instead of
21 immediately.)

22 (___) My agent(s) shall only have the authority to act upon my later incapacity.

23 You may give additional special instructions on the following lines:

24 _____

1 _____
2 _____

3 EFFECTIVE DATE

4 This power of attorney is effective immediately unless I have stated otherwise in the Special
5 Instructions.

6 NOMINATION OF CONSERVATOR AND/OR GUARDIAN (OPTIONAL)

7 If it becomes necessary for a court to appoint a conservator of my estate, I nominate the
8 following person(s) for appointment:

9 Name of Nominee for conservator of my estate:

10 _____

11 Nominee's Address: _____

12 Nominee's Telephone Number: _____

13 If it becomes necessary for a court to appoint a guardian of my person, I nominate the following
14 person(s) for appointment:

15 Name of Nominee for guardian of my person:

16 _____

17 Nominee's Address: _____

18 Nominee's Telephone Number: _____

19 RELIANCE ON THIS POWER OF ATTORNEY

20 Any person, including my agent, may rely upon the validity of this power of attorney or a copy
21 of it unless that person knows it has terminated or is invalid.

22 SIGNATURE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

23 _____, 2____

24 Your Signature

Date

1 _____

2 Your Name Printed

3 _____

4 Your Address

5 _____

6 Your Telephone Number

7 State of _____)

8)SS.

9 County of _____)

10 This Statutory Form Power of Attorney document was acknowledged before me on

11 _____, 2_____ by _____.

12 (Date)

(Name of Principal)

13 _____ (Seal)

14 Signature of Notary Public

15 My commission expires:

16 *IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR AGENT*

17 *Agent's Duties*

18 *When you accept the authority granted under this power of attorney, a special legal relationship*
19 *is created between you and the principal. This relationship imposes upon you legal duties that*
20 *continue until you resign or the power of attorney is terminated or revoked. You must:*

21 (1) *Do what you know the principal reasonably expects you to do with the principal's*
22 *property or, if you do not know the principal's expectations, act in the principal's*
23 *best interest;*

24 (2) *Act in good faith;*

1 (3) *Do nothing beyond the authority granted in this power of attorney; and*

2 (4) *Disclose your identity as an agent whenever you act for the principal by writing or*
3 *printing the name of the principal and signing your own name as "agent" in the*
4 *following manner:*

5 *(Principal's Name) by (Your Signature) as Agent under POA dated (Date)*

6 *Unless the Special Instructions in this power of attorney state otherwise, you must also:*

7 (1) *Act loyally for the principal's benefit;*

8 (2) *Avoid conflicts that would impair your ability to act in the principal's best interest;*

9 (3) *Act with care, competence, and diligence;*

10 (4) *Keep a record of all receipts, disbursements, and transactions made on behalf of the*
11 *principal;*

12 (5) *Cooperate with any person that has authority to make health-care decisions for the*
13 *principal to do what you know the principal reasonably expects or, if you do not*
14 *know the principal's expectations, to act in the principal's best interest; and*

15 (6) *Attempt to preserve the principal's estate plan if you know the plan and preserving*
16 *the plan is consistent with the principal's best interest.*

17 *Termination of Agent's Authority*

18 *You must stop acting on behalf of the principal if you learn of any event that terminates this*
19 *power of attorney or your authority under this power of attorney. Events that terminate a power*
20 *of attorney or your authority to act under a power of attorney include:*

21 (1) *Death of the principal;*

22 (2) *The principal's revocation of the power of attorney or your authority;*

23 (3) *The occurrence of a termination event stated in the power of attorney;*

24 (4) *The purpose of the power of attorney is fully accomplished; or*

1 (5) *If you are married to the principal, a legal action is filed with a court to end your*
2 *marriage, or for your legal separation, unless the Special Instructions in this power*
3 *of attorney state that such an action will not terminate your authority.*

4 *Liability of Agent*

5 *The meaning of the authority granted to you is defined in the South Dakota Uniform Power of*
6 *Attorney Act. If you violate the South Dakota Uniform Power of Attorney Act or act outside the*
7 *authority granted, you may be liable for any damages caused by your violation.*

8 *In addition to civil liability, failure to comply with your duties and authority granted under this*
9 *document could subject you to criminal prosecution for grand theft, embezzlement of property*
10 *received in trust, among other criminal charges.*

11 *If the principal is 65 years of age or older, or an adult with a disability, you could also be*
12 *prosecuted for elder abuse and financial exploitation.*

13 **If there is anything about this document or your duties that you do not understand, you**
14 **should seek legal advice.**

15 Section 42. That the code be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

16 The following optional form may be used by an agent to certify facts concerning a power
17 of attorney. The provisions of §§ 43-28-23 and 7-9-1 apply to any power of attorney that is to
18 be recorded with the register of deeds.

19 AGENT'S CERTIFICATION AS TO THE VALIDITY OF POWER OF ATTORNEY AND

20 AGENT'S AUTHORITY

21 State of _____)

22)SS. AFFIDAVIT

23 County of _____)

24 I, _____ (Name of Agent), certify under

1 penalty of perjury that _____(Name of Principal)
 2 granted me authority as an agent or successor agent in a power of attorney dated
 3 _____, 2____.

4 I further certify that to my knowledge:

5 (1) The Principal is alive and has not revoked the Power of Attorney or my authority to
 6 act under the Power of Attorney and the Power of Attorney and my authority to act
 7 under the Power of Attorney have not terminated;

8 (2) If the Power of Attorney was drafted to become effective upon the happening of an
 9 event or contingency, the event or contingency has occurred;

10 (3) If I was named as a successor agent, the prior agent is no longer able or willing to
 11 serve; and

12 (4) _____
 13 _____
 14 _____

15 (Insert other relevant statements)

16 SIGNATURE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

17 _____, 2____

18 Agent's Signature Date

19 _____

20 Agent's Name Printed

21 Agent's Address _____

22 Agent's Telephone Number _____

23 State of _____)

24)SS.

1 County of _____)

2 This Agent's Certification as to the Validity of Power of Attorney and Agent's Authority

3 document was acknowledged before me on _____, 2____ by

4 _____ (Date)

5 (Name of Agent)

6 _____ (Seal)

7 Signature of Notary Public

8 My commission expires:

9 Section 43. That the code be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

10 A document substantially in the following form may be used to create a statutory form
11 revocation of power of attorney that has the meaning and effect prescribed by this chapter. The
12 provisions of §§ 43-28-23 and 7-9-1 apply to any power of attorney that is to be recorded with
13 the register of deeds.

14 SOUTH DAKOTA

15 STATUTORY FORM REVOCATION OF POWER OF ATTORNEY

16 *IMPORTANT INFORMATION*

17 *This revocation of power of attorney revokes a previously executed power of attorney including*
18 *any nominations of guardian or conservator made within that instrument. This revocation does*
19 *not revoke any power of attorney authorizing the agent to make health-care decisions for you.*
20 *You should immediately deliver copies of this revocation to any person, institution, or company*
21 *that has a copy of the original power of attorney.*

22 REVOCATION OF POWER OF ATTORNEY

23 I _____ previously executed a Statutory Form Power of

24 (Name of Principal)

1 Attorney with a date of _____, 2_____ and named the following person as
2 my agent:

3 Name of Agent: _____

4 Agent's Address: _____

5 Agent's Telephone Number: _____

6 I also named the following successor agent(s):

7 Name of Successor Agent: _____

8 Successor Agent's Address: _____

9 Successor Agent's Telephone Number: _____

10 Name of Second Successor Agent: _____

11 Second Successor Agent's Address: _____

12 Second Successor Agent's Telephone Number: _____

13 I now hereby revoke that Statutory Form Power of Attorney.

14 EFFECTIVE DATE

15 This revocation of power of attorney is effective immediately.

16 SIGNATURE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

17 _____, 2_____

18 Your Signature Date

19 _____

20 Your Name Printed

21 _____

22 Your Address

23 _____

24 Your Telephone Number

1 State of _____)

2)SS.

3 County of _____)

4 This Statutory Form Revocation of Power of Attorney document was acknowledged before me

5 on _____, 2____ by _____.

6 (Date) (Name of Principal)

7 _____ (Seal)

8 Signature of Notary Public

9 My commission expires:

10 Section 44. That § 59-7-2.1 be amended to read:

11 59-7-2.1. Notwithstanding § 59-7-2, if a principal designates another as the principal's
12 attorney in fact or agent by a written power of attorney which contains the words "This power
13 of attorney shall not be affected by disability of the principal," or "This power of attorney shall
14 become effective upon the disability of the principal," or similar words showing the intent of
15 the principal that the authority conferred is exercisable notwithstanding the principal's disability,
16 the authority of the attorney in fact or agent is exercisable by the attorney in fact or agent as
17 provided in the power on behalf of the principal notwithstanding any later disability or
18 incapacity of the principal or later uncertainty as to whether or not the principal is dead or alive.
19 ~~The a principal may designate another as the principal's attorney-in-fact or agent pursuant~~
20 ~~to the provisions of section 3 of this Act.~~

21 A principal may designate any other person as the principal's attorney-in-fact or agent for
22 health care decisions, and the attorney-in-fact shall have the authority to make any health care
23 decision at any time during which the principal lacks capacity. Any durable power of attorney
24 must for health care shall be signed by the principal or in the principal's conscious presence by

1 another individual directed by the principal to sign the principal's name on the power of
2 attorney. The signature ~~must~~ shall be witnessed by two other adult individuals or by a notary
3 public. A power of attorney granted pursuant to this section may authorize the attorney-in-fact
4 to consent to, to reject, or to withdraw consent for health care, including any care, service, or
5 procedure to maintain, diagnose, or treat a person's physical or mental condition.

6 Section 45. That § 59-7-2.4 be amended to read:

7 59-7-2.4. A principal may nominate; by a durable power of attorney; for health care a
8 guardian of the principal's person or conservator of the principal's estate for consideration by
9 the court ~~should guardianship or conservatorship proceedings for the principal's person or estate~~
10 ~~be later commenced if protective proceedings for the principal's estate or person are begun after~~
11 the principal executes the power of attorney for health care. Except for good cause shown or
12 disqualification, the court shall make an appointment under this section in accordance with the
13 principal's most recent nomination.

14 Section 46. That subdivision (1) of § 21-65-1 be amended to read:

15 (1) "~~Attorney in fact~~ Attorney-in-fact," an agent under a power of attorney pursuant to
16 chapter 59-2 or an ~~attorney in fact~~ attorney-in-fact under a durable power of attorney
17 pursuant to § 59-7-2.1 or the provisions of this Act;

18 Section 47. That § 59-6-11 be amended to read:

19 59-6-11. A durable power of attorney ~~that purports to be signed by the principal named in~~
20 ~~the durable power of attorney~~ for health care designated under the provisions of § 59-7-2.1 is
21 presumed valid. Another person may rely on the presumption of validity unless the person has
22 actual knowledge that the power was not validly executed or that the power was revoked.

23 Except as provided in this section, any person who refuses to accept the authority of the
24 agent to exercise a power granted under the durable power of attorney for health care is liable

1 to the principal and to the principal's heirs, assigns, and the personal representative or successor
2 in interest of the principal's estate in the same manner as the person would be liable had the
3 person refused to accept the authority of the principal to act on the principal's own behalf. The
4 person found liable for refusing to accept the authority of an agent is liable for damages and
5 costs, including reasonable attorney's fees.

6 A person who refuses to accept the authority of an agent to exercise a power granted under
7 a durable power of attorney for health care is not liable pursuant to this section if:

- 8 (1) The person has actual knowledge of the revocation of the durable power of attorney
9 before the exercise of the power;
- 10 (2) The duration of the durable power of attorney specified in the durable power of
11 attorney has expired;
- 12 (3) The person has actual knowledge of the death of the principal;
- 13 (4) The person reasonably believes that the durable power of attorney is not valid under
14 the law of this state;
- 15 (5) The person reasonably believes that the durable power of attorney does not grant the
16 agent authority to perform the transaction requested; or
- 17 (6) The person reasonably believes that a course of conduct or refusal to act as proposed
18 by the agent is contrary to the wishes of the principal as expressed to the person.

19 This section does not negate the liability that a person would have to the principal or the
20 agent under another form of power of attorney, under the common law, or otherwise.

21 Section 48. That § 59-7-8 be amended to read:

22 59-7-8. A physician or other health care provider as defined in subdivision 34-12C-1(5)
23 acting in reliance on a health care decision by an attorney-in-fact or agent whom the physician
24 or health care provider believes in good faith is authorized by this chapter to make a health care

1 decision for the principal or a physician or other health care provider declining to act in reliance
2 on a health care decision by an attorney-in-fact or agent whom the physician or health care
3 provider believes in good faith is not authorized by this chapter to make a health care decision
4 for the principal is not subject to criminal prosecution, civil liability, or professional disciplinary
5 action on the ground that the attorney-in-fact or agent either had or did not have authority to
6 make a health care decision or for disclosing to the attorney-in-fact or agent medical records or
7 other information.

8 A physician or other health care provider who in good faith believes that the principal has
9 or does not have decisional capacity under § 59-7-2.6 is not subject to criminal prosecution,
10 civil liability, or professional disciplinary action for making that determination.

11 A physician or other health care provider who in good faith makes a determination in a
12 writing or other record that a principal is incapacitated within the meaning of subsection (5)(a)
13 of section 1 of this Act is not subject to criminal prosecution, civil liability, or professional
14 disciplinary action for making that determination.

15 An attorney, judge, or governmental official who in good faith makes a determination in a
16 writing or other record that a principal is incapacitated within the meaning of subsection (5)(b)
17 of section 1 of this Act is not subject to criminal prosecution, civil liability, or professional
18 disciplinary action for making that determination.

19 Section 49. That subdivision (2) of § 55-19-1 be amended to read:

20 (2) "Agent," any ~~attorney in fact~~ attorney-in-fact granted authority under a ~~durable~~ power
21 of attorney pursuant to ~~§ 59-7-2.1~~ the provisions of this Act or nondurable power of
22 attorney pursuant to chapter 59-2;

23 Section 50. That § 59-6-11, §§ 59-7-2.2 and 59-7-2.3, §§ 59-7-3 to 59-7-7, inclusive, and
24 § 59-7-10 be repealed.

1 Section 51. That § 29A-5-118 be amended to read:

2 29A-5-118. The appointment of a guardian or conservator of a protected person does not
3 constitute a general finding of legal incompetence unless the court so orders, and the protected
4 person shall otherwise retain all rights which have not been granted to the guardian or
5 conservator, with the exception of the ability to create an agency and confer authority on another
6 person to do any act that the protected person might do, pursuant to § 59-2-1. Unless prior
7 authorization of the court is first obtained, a guardian or conservator may not change the
8 residence of the minor or protected person to another state, terminate or consent to a termination
9 of the minor's or protected person's parental rights, initiate a change in the minor's or protected
10 person's marital status, or revoke or amend a durable power of attorney of which the protected
11 person is the principal, except as provided in §§ ~~59-7-10~~ and § 59-7-11.