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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 447

BY JUDICIARY, RULES, AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF PERSONS UNDER DISABILITY; AMENDING SECTION 15-5-209, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS RELATING TO CERTAIN DUTIES OF A GUARDIAN OF A MINOR AND TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS; AMENDING SECTION 15-5-312, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS RELATING TO CER-TAIN REPORTING REQUIREMENTS OF A GUARDIAN OF AN INCAPACITATED PERSON AND TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS; AMENDING SECTION 15-5-314, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE FOR THE COLLECTION, PAYMENT AND DEPOSIT OF CERTAIN MON-EYS; REPEALING SECTION 15-5-418, IDAHO CODE, RELATING TO INVENTORY AND RECORDS; AMENDING SECTION 15-5-419, IDAHO CODE, TO REMOVE PROVISIONS RELATING TO ACCOUNTS AND REPORTS OF CERTAIN CONSERVATORS AND GUARDIANS, TO REVISE AND ESTABLISH PROVISIONS RELATING TO REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR CONSERVATORS AND TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS; AMENDING SEC-TION 31-3201G, IDAHO CODE, TO RENAME A CERTAIN FUND, TO PROVIDE THAT THE GUARDIANSHIP AND CONSERVATORSHIP PROJECT FUND SHALL CONSIST OF CERTAIN MONEYS AND TO REMOVE ARCHAIC LANGUAGE; AND AMENDING SECTION 66-405, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS RELATING TO CERTAIN DUTIES OF GUARDIANS AND CONSERVATORS AND TO GRANT THE COURT THE AUTHORITY TO REQUIRE A CONSERVATOR TO SUBMIT TO A PHYSICAL CHECK OF THE ESTATE IN HIS CONTROL.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

SECTION 1. That Section 15-5-209, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 15-5-209. POWERS AND DUTIES OF GUARDIAN OF MINOR. A guardian of a minor has the powers and responsibilities of a parent who has not been deprived of custody of his minor and unemancipated child, except that a guardian is not legally obligated to provide from his own funds for the ward and is not liable to third persons by reason of the parental relationship for acts of the ward. In particular, and without qualifying the foregoing, a guardian has the following powers and duties:
- $(\underline{a}\underline{1})$ He must take reasonable care of his ward's personal effects and commence protective proceedings if necessary to protect other property of the ward.
- (b2) He may receive money payable for the support of the ward to the ward's parent, guardian or custodian under the terms of any statutory benefit or insurance system, or any private contract, devise, trust, conservatorship or custodianship. He also may receive money or property of the ward paid or delivered by virtue of section 15-5-103, of this code Idaho Code. Any sums so received shall be applied to the ward's current needs for support, care and education. He must exercise due care to conserve any excess for the ward's future needs unless a conservator has been appointed for the estate of the ward, in which case the excess shall be paid over at least annually to

the conservator. Sums so received by the guardian are not to be used for compensation for his services except as approved by order of $\underline{\text{the}}$ court or as determined by a duly appointed conservator other than the guardian. A guardian may institute proceedings to compel the performance by any person of a duty to support the ward or to pay sums for the welfare of the ward.

- (e3) The guardian is empowered to facilitate the ward's education, social, or other activities and to authorize medical or other professional care, treatment, or advice. A guardian is not liable by reason of this consent for injury to the ward resulting from the negligence or acts of third persons unless it would have been illegal for a parent to have consented. A guardian may consent to the marriage or adoption of his ward.
- (d4) A guardian must shall report the condition of his to the court at least annually on the status of the ward and of the ward's estate which has been subject to his possession or control, as ordered by court on petition of any person interested in the minor's welfare or as required by court rule. All reports shall be under oath or affirmation and shall comply with the Idaho supreme court rules.

SECTION 2. That Section 15-5-312, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 15-5-312. GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES OF GUARDIAN. (1) A guardian of an incapacitated person has the powers and responsibilities of a parent who has not been deprived of custody of his unemancipated minor child except that a guardian is not legally obligated to provide from his own funds for the ward and is not liable to third persons for acts of the ward, and except as hereinafter limited. In particular, and without qualifying the foregoing, a guardian has the following powers and duties, except as modified by order of the court when the guardianship is limited:
 - (a) To the extent that it is consistent with the terms of any order by a court of competent jurisdiction relating to detention or commitment of the ward, he is entitled to custody of the person of his ward and may establish the ward's place of abode within or without this state. The guardian shall take reasonable measures to ensure that a convicted felon does not reside with, care for or visit the ward without court approval.
 - (b) If entitled to custody of his ward he shall make provision for the care, comfort and maintenance of his ward, and, whenever appropriate, arrange for his training and education. Without regard to custodial rights of the ward's person, he shall take reasonable care of his ward's clothing, furniture, vehicles and other personal effects and commence protective proceedings if other property of his ward is in need of protection.
 - (c) A guardian may give any consents or approvals that may be necessary to enable the ward to receive medical or other professional care, counsel, treatment or service. A guardian shall be automatically entitled to any information governed by the health insurance portability and accountability act of 1996 (HIPAA), 42 U.S.C. 1320d and 45 CFR 160 through 164, and the appointment of such guardian shall be deemed to grant such release authority.

- (d) If no conservator for the estate of the ward has been appointed, the guardian may institute proceedings to appoint a conservator. In no circumstances shall the guardian exercise any of the powers of a conservator.
- (e) A guardian shall be required to report as provided in section 15-5-419, Idaho Code to the court at least annually on the status of the ward. All reports shall be under oath or affirmation and shall comply with Idaho supreme court rules.
- (f) If a conservator has been appointed, all of the ward's estate received by the guardian in excess of those funds expended to meet current expenses for support, care, and education of the ward must be paid to the conservator for management as provided in this code pursuant to this chapter, and the guardian must account to the conservator for funds expended.
- (2) Any guardian of one for whom a conservator also has been appointed shall control the custody and care of the $\operatorname{ward}_{\tau}$ and is entitled to receive reasonable sums for his services and for room and board furnished to the ward as agreed upon between him and the conservator, provided the amounts agreed upon are reasonable under the circumstances. The guardian may request the conservator to expend the ward's estate by payment to third persons or institutions for the ward's care and maintenance.
- (3) A guardian may delegate certain of his responsibilities for decisions affecting the ward's well-being to the ward when reasonable under all of the circumstances.
- SECTION 3. That Section 15-5-314, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 15-5-314. COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES. (1) If not otherwise compensated for services rendered or expenses incurred, any visitor, guardian ad litem, physician, guardian, or temporary guardian appointed in a protective proceeding is entitled to reasonable compensation from the estate for services rendered and expenses incurred in such status, including for services rendered and expenses incurred prior to the actual appointment of said guardian or temporary guardian which were reasonably related to the proceedings. If any person brings or defends any guardianship proceeding in good faith, whether successful or not, he or she is entitled to receive from the estate his or her necessary expenses and disbursements including reasonable attorney's fees incurred in such proceeding. If the estate is inadequate to bear any of the reasonable compensation, fees, and/or costs referenced in this section, the court may apportion the reasonable compensation, fees, and/or costs to any party, or among the parties, as the court deems reasonable.
- (2) If court visitor services are provided by court personnel, any moneys recovered shall be collected through the clerk of the district court of the county in which the appointment was made and the clerk shall pay the moneys to the state treasurer for deposit in the guardianship and conservatorship project fund established by section 31-3201G, Idaho Code.
- SECTION 4. That Section $\underline{15-5-418}$, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby repealed.

SECTION 5. That Section 15-5-419, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

ACCOUNTS AND REPORTS REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR CONSERVA-TORS. (a1) Every conservator or quardian shall submit a written annual report to the court concerning the status of the ward and of the ward's estate that has been under the guardian's or conservator's control. The guardian or conservator shall also be required to provide copies of the report to all persons listed by the court as having an interest in receiving copies of the report. The court may order more frequent reports by its own ruling or pursuant to a petition of any person interested in the ward's welfare. Every conservator must account annually, or as otherwise directed by the court, and upon his resignation or removal. On termination of the protected person's minority or disability, a conservator shall account to the court and shall account to the former protected person or his personal representative. Subject to appeal or vacation within the time permitted, an order, made upon notice and hearing, allowing an intermediate account of a conservator, adjudicates as to his liabilities concerning the matters considered in connection therewith; and an order, made upon notice and hearing, allowing a final account adjudicates as to all previously unsettled liabilities of the conservator to the protected person or his successors relating to the conservatorship. In connection with any account, the file with the court an inventory within ninety (90) days of appointment, an accounting at least annually, and a final accounting at the termination of the appointment of the conservator. All inventories and accountings shall be under oath or affirmation and shall comply with the Idaho supreme court rules. The court may require a conservator to submit to a physical check of the estate in his control, to be made in any manner the court may specify.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (c) of this section, every report submitted by a conservator shall cover a specific time period, which period shall be stated explicitly in the report. The report shall cover all of the estate of the protected person which is under the control of the conservator. Supporting documentation for items in the report shall either accompany such report or, if such supporting documentation is voluminous, or expensive to provide, or contains sensitive or private information, or another good reason exists for not providing such supporting documentation with the report, the report shall state the reason that the supporting documentation is not provided and that the supporting documentation is held by, or is reasonably available to, the conservator and will be produced upon request. The report shall contain, to the extent reasonably available to the conservator, at least the following:

(1) A reasonably detailed listing of the starting inventory of the estate of the protected person at the beginning of the time period for which the report is made. Every such inventory item shall be specifically identified; provided however, that items may be reported in categories, such as miscellaneous personal property, rather than individually, and valued by category, when reasonable. The fair market value of each such item or category shall be stated in such starting inventory and the method of determining such fair market value shall also be stated. In the case of an item or category which is secured by

an encumbrance or debt of any nature, the encumbrance or debt shall be listed separately from the item or category and shall be specifically identified, including the items or category secured by the encumbrance or debt, the amount of the encumbrance or debt as of the date of the starting inventory, the holder of such debt or encumbrance, the family relationship of such holder to the protected person if actually known to the conservator, and any other reasonably relevant information;

- (2) A reasonably detailed listing, for the covered time period, of the receipts, of any nature, by the estate of the protected person; provided however, that the receipts may be reported in categories, such as interest income, social security payments or rental receipts, if reasonable. Such listing shall reasonably identify each such receipt or category, including the source of such receipt or category and the exact amount or fair market value thereof, and the method of determining such amount or fair market value;
- (3) A reasonably detailed listing, for the covered time period, of all payments or expenses, of any nature, by the estate of the protected person; provided however, that the payments or expenses may be reported in categories, such as rental or house payments, medical expenses or transportation expenses, if reasonable. Each such payment or category shall be set forth in reasonable detail, including the amount thereof, to whom the payment was made, the method or frequency of making such payment if not reasonably indicated by the item or category, the consideration for such payment if not reasonably indicated by the item or category, the family relationship of the receiver of such payment to the protected person if actually known to the conservator, the time period covered by such payment if relevant, and any other information reasonably relevant to such payment;
- (4) A reasonably detailed listing of the ending inventory of the estate of the protected person at the end of the time period for which the report is made, in the same manner as described above for the starting inventory;
- (5) If the report does not, on its face, balance exactly the starting and ending inventories with the receipts and payments of the estate of the protected person, a reasonably detailed analysis and statement of the reasons for such imbalance, and a reasonably detailed listing of the correcting entries necessary to balance such report, such as unrealized gains or losses on assets of the estate, shall be made as part of the report; and
- (6) Any other information, of any nature, which is reasonably relevant to the actions of the conservator during the time period covered by the report, which shall be submitted as part of the report or shall accompany such report.
- (c) Any report prepared by a federally or state chartered financial institution using a fiduciary accounting system that produces statements containing asset positions, receipts, and disbursements shall be deemed to satisfy the reporting requirements set forth in subsection (b) of this section. The court may order any such report filed by a federally or state chartered financial institution to be supplemented or may order that any information reasonably relevant to the report be produced.

- (d) All accounts and reports required by or ordered pursuant to this section, shall be subject to examination and review by the court, or persons designated by the court to make such examination and review, as provided by rules adopted by the Idaho supreme court.
 - (e2) If a conservator or quardian:

- $(\pm \underline{a})$ Makes a substantial misstatement on filings of any required annual inventories or reports; or
- (2b) Is guilty of gross impropriety in handling the property of the ward protected person; or
- $(3\underline{c})$ Willfully fails to file the report required by this section, after receiving written notice of the failure to file and after a grace period of two (2) months have elapsed;

then the court may impose a fine in an amount not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) on the conservator or quardian. The court may appoint a guardian ad litem for the ward protected person on its own motion or on the motion of any interested party to represent the ward protected person in any proceedings hereunder and may also appoint appropriate persons or entities to make investigation of the actions of the conservator or quardian. court may also order restitution of funds misappropriated from the estate of a ward protected person and may impose a surcharge upon the conservator or quardian responsible for such misappropriation for all damages, costs and other appropriate sums determined by the court, in addition to any fine imposed including, but not limited to, any fees and costs of the guardian ad litem. The court may take any other actions which are in the best interests of the $\frac{\text{ward}}{\text{max}}$ protected person and the protection of the assets of the $\frac{\text{ward}}{\text{max}}$ protected person. Any sums awarded hereunder shall be paid by the conservator or guardian and may not be paid by the estate of the ward protected person. The court may enter judgment against a conservator or quardian for any or all of the foregoing, and may impose judgment against any bond of such conservator or quardian.

SECTION 6. That Section 31-3201G, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 31-3201G. PILOT GUARDIANSHIP AND CONSERVATORSHIP PROJECT FEE FUND. (1) In addition to any other filing and reporting fees applicable to guardianships and conservatorships, the court shall charge the following fees:
 - (a) Fifty dollars (\$50.00) for filing cases involving guardianships or conservatorships;
 - (b) Forty-one dollars (\$41.00) for reports required to be filed with the court by conservators; and
 - (c) Twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for reports required to be filed with the court by quardians.
- (2) The additional fees set forth in paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of subsection (1) of this section shall be paid to the county treasurer, who shall pay such fees to the state treasurer for deposit in the guardianship pilot and conservatorship project fund, which is hereby created in the state treasury. The fund shall be administered by the Idaho supreme court and shall consist of fees as provided in this section, any moneys recovered pursuant to

section 15-5-314(2), Idaho Code, and any funds as may be appropriated by the
legislature, grants, donations and moneys from other sources.

- (3) Moneys in the fund shall be expended exclusively for the development of a pilot project which will operate in at least three (3) Idaho counties and which shall be designed to improve reporting and monitoring systems and processes for the protection of persons and their assets where a guardian or conservator has been appointed. Elements of the pilot project may include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - (a) The adoption of standards of practice for guardians;
 - (b) A requirement that guardians be registered;

- (c) Consideration of an office of the public guardian in counties in which the pilot project operates;
- (d) A review of the strengths of Idaho law regarding the treatment and care of developmentally disabled persons; and
- (e) If federal or grant funding is available, funding for adult protection services to seek guardians in cases for which volunteers cannot be enlisted.
- (4) The supreme court shall $\frac{1}{2}$ make a report in January 2007, and annually thereafter to the senate judiciary and rules committee and the house judiciary, rules and administration committee regarding the progress of the pilot project.
- SECTION 7. That Section 66-405, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 66-405. ORDER IN PROTECTIVE PROCEEDINGS. (1) If it is determined that the respondent does not have a developmental disability but appears in need of protective services, the court may cause the proceeding to be expanded or altered for consideration under the uniform probate code.
- (2) If it is determined that the respondent is able to manage financial resources and meet essential requirements for physical health or safety, the court shall dismiss the petition.
- (3) If it is determined that the respondent has a developmental disability and is unable to manage some financial resources or meet some essential requirements for physical health or safety, the court may appoint a partial guardian and/or partial conservator on behalf of the respondent. An order establishing partial guardianship or partial conservatorship shall define the powers and duties of the partial guardian or partial conservator so as to permit the respondent to meet essential requirements for physical health or safety and to manage financial resources commensurate with his ability to do so, and shall specify all legal restrictions to which he is subject. A person for whom a partial guardianship or partial conservatorship has been appointed under this chapter retains all legal and civil rights except those which have by court order been limited or which have been specifically granted to the partial guardian or partial conservator by the court.
- (4) If it is determined that the respondent has a developmental disability and is unable to manage financial resources or meet essential requirements for physical health or safety even with the appointment of a partial guardian or partial conservator, the court may appoint a total guardian and/or total conservator.

(5) In the event that more than one (1) person seeks to be appointed guardian and/or conservator, the court shall appoint the person or persons most capable of serving on behalf of the respondent; the court shall not customarily or ordinarily appoint the department or any other organization or individual, public or private, that is or is likely to be providing services to the respondent. If an appointment of a guardian is made by will pursuant to section 15-5-301, Idaho Code, such appointment shall be entitled to preference as the guardian under this chapter, if the person so appointed by will is capable of serving on behalf of the respondent and the court finds that it is not in the best interests of the respondent to appoint a different person as guardian.

- (6) Subject to the limitations of the provisions of subsection (7) of this section, guardians or conservators may have any of the duties and powers as provided in sections 15-5-312(1)(a) through (d), 15-5-424 and 15-5-425, Idaho Code, and as specified in the order. Any order appointing a partial or total guardian or partial or total conservator under the provisions of this section must require a report to the court at least annually. In addition to such other requirements imposed by law or order, the report shall include:
 - (a) A description of the respondent's current mental, physical and social condition;
 - (b) The respondent's present address and living arrangement;
 - (c) A description of any significant changes in the capacity of the respondent to meet essential requirements for physical health or safety or to manage financial resources;
 - (d) A description of services being provided the respondent;
 - (e) A description of significant actions taken by the guardian or conservator during the reporting period;
 - (f) Any significant problems relating to the guardianship or conservatorship;
 - (g) A complete financial statement of the financial resources under the control or supervision of the quardian or conservator;
 - (h) A description of the need for continued guardianship or conservatorship services; and
 - (i) Any material change in the information that the guardian or conservator provided or caused to be provided to the evaluation committee and the court pursuant to section 66-404(7), Idaho Code

A guardian shall be required to report to the court at least annually on the status of the person with a developmental disability. A conservator shall be required to file with the court an inventory within ninety (90) days of appointment, an accounting at least annually, and a final accounting at the termination of the appointment of the conservator. All required inventories, accountings and reports shall be under oath or affirmation and shall comply with the Idaho supreme court rules. The court may require a conservator to submit to a physical check of the estate in his control, to be made in any manner the court may specify.

(7) No guardian appointed under this chapter shall have the authority to refuse or withhold consent for medically necessary treatment when the effect of withholding such treatment would seriously endanger the life or health and well-being of the person with a developmental disability. To withhold or attempt to withhold such treatment shall constitute neglect

of the person and be cause for removal of the guardian. No physician or caregiver shall withhold or withdraw such treatment for a respondent whose condition is not terminal or whose death is not imminent. If the physician or caregiver cannot obtain valid consent for medically necessary treatment from the guardian, he shall provide the medically necessary treatment as authorized by section 39-4504(1) (i), Idaho Code.

- (8) A guardian appointed under this chapter may consent to withholding or withdrawal of artificial life-sustaining procedures, only if the respondent:
 - (a) Has an incurable injury, disease, illness or condition, certified by the respondent's attending physician and at least one (1) other physician to be terminal such that the application of artificial life-sustaining procedures would not result in the possibility of saving or significantly prolonging the life of the respondent, and would only serve to prolong the moment of the respondent's death for a period of hours, days or weeks, and where both physicians certify that death is imminent, whether or not the life-sustaining procedures are used; or
 - (b) Has been diagnosed by the respondent's attending physician and at least one (1) other physician as being in a persistent vegetative state which is irreversible and from which the respondent will never regain consciousness.
- (9) Any person who has information that medically necessary treatment of a respondent has been withheld or withdrawn may report such information to adult protective services or to the Idaho protection and advocacy system for people with developmental disabilities, which shall have the authority to investigate the report and in appropriate cases to seek a court order to ensure that medically necessary treatment is provided.

If adult protective services or the protection and advocacy system determines that withholding of medical treatment violates the provisions of this section, they may petition the court for an ex parte order to provide or continue the medical treatment in question. If the court finds, based on affidavits or other evidence, that there is probable cause to believe that the withholding of medical treatment in a particular case violates the provisions of this section, and that the life or health of the patient is endangered thereby, the court shall issue an exparte order to continue or to provide the treatment until such time as the court can hear evidence from the parties involved. Petitions for court orders under this section shall be expedited by the courts and heard as soon as possible. No bond shall be required of a petitioner under this section.

- (10) No partial or total guardian or partial or total conservator appointed under the provisions of this section may without specific approval of the court in a proceeding separate from that in which such guardian or conservator was appointed:
 - (a) Consent to medical or surgical treatment the effect of which permanently prohibits the conception of children by the respondent unless the treatment or procedures are necessary to protect the physical health of the respondent and would be prescribed for a person who does not have a developmental disability;
 - (b) Consent to experimental surgery, procedures or medications; or
 - (c) Delegate the powers granted by the order.