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STATE OF MICHIGAN  
89TH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 1998

Introduced by Senator Van Regenmorter

# ENROLLED SENATE BILL No. 209

AN ACT to codify, revise, consolidate, and classify aspects of the law relating to wills and intestacy, relating to the administration and distribution of estates of certain individuals, relating to trusts, and relating to the affairs of certain individuals under legal incapacity; to provide for the powers and procedures of the court that has jurisdiction over these matters; to provide for the validity and effect of certain transfers, contracts, and deposits that relate to death; to provide procedures to facilitate enforcement of certain trusts; and to repeal acts and parts of acts.

*The People of the State of Michigan enact:*

## ARTICLE I

### DEFINITIONS, GENERAL PROVISIONS, AND COURT JURISDICTION

#### PART 1

##### SHORT TITLE AND DEFINITIONS

Sec. 1101. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "estates and protected individuals code".

Sec. 1102. The definitions contained in this part apply throughout this act unless the context requires otherwise or unless a term defined elsewhere in this act is applicable to a specific article, part, or section.

Sec. 1103. As used in this act:

(a) "Agent" includes, but is not limited to, an attorney-in-fact under a durable or nondurable power of attorney and an individual authorized to make decisions as a patient advocate concerning another's health care.

(b) "Application" means a written request to the probate register for an order of informal probate or appointment under part 3 of article III.

(c) "Beneficiary" includes, but is not limited to, the following:

(i) In relation to a trust beneficiary, a person that is an interested trust beneficiary.

(ii) In relation to a charitable trust, a person that is entitled to enforce the trust.

(iii) In relation to a beneficiary of a beneficiary designation, a person that is a beneficiary of an insurance or annuity policy, of an account with POD designation, of a security registered in beneficiary form (TOD), of a pension, profit-sharing, retirement, or similar benefit plan, or of another nonprobate transfer at death.

(iv) In relation to a beneficiary designated in a governing instrument, a person that is a grantee of a deed, devisee, trust beneficiary, beneficiary of a beneficiary designation, donee, appointee, taker in default of a power of appointment,

or person in whose favor a power of attorney or power held in an individual, fiduciary, or representative capacity is exercised.

(d) "Beneficiary designation" means the naming in a governing instrument of a beneficiary of an insurance or annuity policy, of an account with POD designation, of a security registered in beneficiary form (TOD), of a pension, profit-sharing, retirement, or similar benefit plan, or of another nonprobate transfer at death.

(e) "Child" includes, but is not limited to, an individual entitled to take as a child under this act by intestate succession from the parent whose relationship is involved. Child does not include an individual who is only a stepchild, a foster child, or a grandchild or more remote descendant.

(f) "Claim" includes, but is not limited to, in respect to a decedent's or protected individual's estate, a liability of the decedent or protected individual, whether arising in contract, tort, or otherwise, and a liability of the estate that arises at or after the decedent's death or after a conservator's appointment, including funeral expenses and expenses of administration. Claim does not include an estate or inheritance tax, or a demand or dispute regarding a decedent's or protected individual's title to specific property alleged to be included in the estate.

(g) "Conservator" means a person appointed by a court to manage a protected individual's estate.

(h) "Cost-of-living adjustment factor" means, a fraction, the numerator of which is the United States consumer price index for the prior calendar year and the denominator of which is the United States consumer price index for 1997. As used in this subdivision, "United States consumer price index" means the annual average of the United States consumer price index for all urban consumers as defined and reported by the United States department of labor, bureau of labor statistics, or its successor agency, and as certified by the state treasurer.

(i) "Court" means the probate court or, when applicable, the family division of the circuit court.

(j) "Current trust beneficiary" means a beneficiary about which 1 of the following is true:

(i) The beneficiary has a current right to receive all or a portion of the income, if any, of the trust property.

(ii) The beneficiary is currently eligible to receive all or a portion of a mandatory or discretionary distribution of income or principal.

(iii) The beneficiary possesses a testamentary or presently exercisable general or special power of appointment.

(k) "Descendant" means, in relation to an individual, all of his or her descendants of all generations, with the relationship of parent and child at each generation being determined by the definitions of child and parent contained in this act.

(l) "Devise" means, when used as a noun, a testamentary disposition of real or personal property and, when used as a verb, to dispose of real or personal property by will.

(m) "Devisee" means a person designated in a will to receive a devise. For the purposes of article II, for a devise to a trustee of an existing trust or to a trustee under a will, the trustee is a devisee and a beneficiary is not.

(n) "Disability" means cause for a protective order as described in section 5401.

(o) "Distributee" means a person that receives a decedent's property from the decedent's personal representative other than as a creditor or purchaser. A testamentary trustee is a distributee only to the extent that distributed property or an increment of the distributed property remains in the trustee's hands. A testamentary trust beneficiary to whom the trustee distributes property received from a personal representative is a distributee of the personal representative. For the purposes of this subdivision, testamentary trustee includes a trustee to whom property is transferred by will to the extent of the devised property.

Sec. 1104. As used in this act:

(a) "Environmental law" means a federal, state, or local law, rule, regulation, or ordinance that relates to the protection of the environment or human health.

(b) "Estate" includes the property of the decedent, trust, or other person whose affairs are subject to this act as the property is originally constituted and as it exists throughout administration. Except when used in the term "probate estate", estate includes the right of an estate described in section 7502 to proceed against a recipient of a nonprobate transfer on death and against a trust subject to a power of revocation as necessary to enable the estate to discharge claims and family allowances.

(c) "Exempt property" means property of a decedent's estate that is described in section 2404.

(d) "Family allowance" is the allowance prescribed in section 2403.

(e) "Fiduciary" includes, but is not limited to, a personal representative, guardian, conservator, trustee, plenary or partial guardian appointed as provided in chapter 6 of the mental health code, 1974 PA 258, MCL 330.1600 to 330.1644, and successor fiduciary.

(f) "Financial institution" means an organization authorized to do business under state or federal laws relating to a financial institution and includes, but is not limited to, a bank, trust company, savings bank, building and loan association, savings and loan company or association, and credit union.

(g) "Foreign personal representative" means a personal representative appointed by another jurisdiction.

(h) "Formal proceedings" means proceedings conducted before a judge with notice to interested persons.

(i) "General personal representative" means a personal representative other than a special personal representative.

(j) "Governing instrument" means a deed; will; trust; insurance or annuity policy; account with POD designation; security registered in beneficiary form (TOD); pension, profit-sharing, retirement, or similar benefit plan; instrument creating or exercising a power of appointment or a power of attorney; or dispositive, appointive, or nominative instrument of any similar type.

(k) "Guardian" means a person who has qualified as a guardian of a minor or incapacitated individual under a parental or spousal nomination or a court appointment and includes a limited guardian as described in sections 5205, 5206, and 5306. Guardian does not include a guardian ad litem.

(l) "Hazardous substance" means a substance defined as hazardous or toxic or otherwise regulated by an environmental law.

(m) "Heir" means, except as controlled by section 2720, a person, including the surviving spouse or the state, that is entitled under the statutes of intestate succession to a decedent's property.

(n) "Homestead allowance" means the allowance prescribed in section 2402.

Sec. 1105. As used in this act:

(a) "Incapacitated individual" means an individual who is impaired by reason of mental illness, mental deficiency, physical illness or disability, chronic use of drugs, chronic intoxication, or other cause, not including minority, to the extent of lacking sufficient understanding or capacity to make or communicate informed decisions.

(b) "Informal proceedings" means proceedings for probate of a will or appointment of a personal representative conducted by the probate register without notice to interested persons.

(c) "Interested person" includes, but is not limited to, an heir, devisee, child, spouse, creditor, and beneficiary and any other person that has a property right in or claim against a trust estate or the estate of a decedent, ward, or protected individual; a person that has priority for appointment as personal representative; and a fiduciary representing an interested person. Identification of interested persons may vary from time to time and shall be determined according to the particular purposes of, and matter involved in, a proceeding, and by the supreme court rules.

(d) "Interested trust beneficiary" means a person that has 1 or more of the following interests in a trust:

(i) Life estate.

(ii) Eligible recipient of a mandatory or discretionary distribution by the trustee of income or principal.

(iii) Eligible recipient of a mandatory or discretionary distribution by the trustee of income or principal upon termination of an interest of a person described in subparagraph (i) or (ii).

(iv) Presently exercisable or testamentary general or special power of appointment.

(e) "Issue" means an individual's descendant.

(f) "Joint tenants with the right of survivorship" or "community property with the right of survivorship" includes, but is not limited to, co-owners or ownership of property held under circumstances that entitle 1 or more to the whole of the property on the death of the other or others, but does not include forms of co-ownership registration in which the underlying ownership of each party is in proportion to that party's contribution.

(g) "Lease" includes, but is not limited to, an oil, gas, or other mineral lease.

(h) "Letters" includes, but is not limited to, letters testamentary, letters of guardianship, letters of administration, and letters of conservatorship.

Sec. 1106. As used in this act:

(a) "Michigan prudent investor rule" means the fiduciary investment and management rule prescribed by part 5 of this article.

(b) "Minor" means an individual who is less than 18 years of age.

(c) "Minor ward" means a minor for whom a guardian is appointed solely because of minority.

(d) "Mortgage" means a conveyance, agreement, or arrangement in which property is encumbered or used as security.

(e) "Nonresident decedent" means a decedent who was domiciled in another jurisdiction at the time of his or her death.

(f) "Organization" means a corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, joint venture, association, limited liability company, government, governmental subdivision or agency, or another legal or commercial entity.

(g) "Parent" includes, but is not limited to, an individual entitled to take, or who would be entitled to take, as a parent under this act by intestate succession from a child who dies without a will and whose relationship is in question. Parent does not include an individual who is only a stepparent, foster parent, or grandparent.

(h) "Patient advocate" means an individual designated to exercise powers concerning another individual's care, custody, and medical treatment as provided in section 5506.

(i) "Patient advocate designation" means the written document executed and with the effect as described in sections 5506 to 5512.

(j) "Payor" means a trustee, insurer, business entity, employer, government, governmental subdivision or agency, or other person authorized or obligated by law or a governing instrument to make payments.

(k) "Person" means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, governmental entity, or other legal entity.

(l) "Personal representative" includes, but is not limited to, an executor, administrator, successor personal representative, and special personal representative, and any other person who performs substantially the same function under the law governing that person's status.

(m) "Petition" means a written request to the court for an order after notice.

(n) "Proceeding" includes an application and a petition, and may be an action at law or a suit in equity. A proceeding may be denominated a civil action under court rules.

(o) "Property" means anything that may be the subject of ownership, and includes both real and personal property or an interest in real or personal property.

(p) "Protected individual" means a minor or other individual for whom a conservator has been appointed or other protective order has been made as provided in part 4 of article V.

(q) "Protective proceeding" means a proceeding under the provisions of part 4 of article V.

Sec. 1107. As used in this act:

(a) "Register" or "probate register" means the official of the court designated to perform the functions of register as provided in section 1304.

(b) "Revised judicature act of 1961" means the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.101 to 600.9948.

(c) "Security" includes, but is not limited to, a note, stock, treasury stock, bond, debenture, evidence of indebtedness, certificate of interest or participation in an oil, gas, or mining title or lease or in payments out of production under such a title or lease, collateral trust certificate, transferable share, voting trust certificate, or interest in a regulated investment company or other entity generally referred to as a mutual fund or, in general, an interest or instrument commonly known as a security, or a certificate of interest or participation for, a temporary or interim certificate, receipt, or certificate of deposit for, or any warrant or right to subscribe to or purchase any of the foregoing.

(d) "Settlement" means, in reference to a decedent's estate, the full process of administration, distribution, and closing.

(e) "Special personal representative" means a personal representative as described by sections 3614 to 3618.

(f) "State" means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or a territory or insular possession subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

(g) "Successor" means a person, other than a creditor, who is entitled to property of a decedent under the decedent's will or this act.

(h) "Successor personal representative" means a personal representative, other than a special personal representative, who is appointed to succeed a previously appointed personal representative.

(i) "Supervised administration" means the proceedings described in part 5 of article III.

(j) "Survive" means that an individual neither predeceases an event, including the death of another individual, nor is considered to predecease an event under section 2104 or 2702. Survive includes its derivatives, such as survives, survived, survivor, and surviving.

(k) "Testacy proceeding" means a proceeding to establish a will or determine intestacy.

(l) "Testator" includes an individual of either sex.

(m) "Trust" includes, but is not limited to, an express trust, private or charitable, with additions to the trust, wherever and however created. Trust includes, but is not limited to, a trust created or determined by judgment or decree under which the trust is to be administered in the manner of an express trust. Trust does not include a constructive trust or a resulting trust, conservatorship, personal representative, custodial arrangement under the Michigan uniform gifts to minors act, 1959 PA 172, MCL 554.451 to 554.461, business trust providing for a certificate to be issued to a beneficiary, common trust fund, voting trust, security arrangement, liquidation trust, or trust for the primary purpose of paying debts, dividends, interest, salaries, wages, profits, pensions, or employee benefits of any kind, or another arrangement under which a person is a nominee or escrowee for another.

(n) "Trustee" includes an original, additional, or successor trustee, whether or not appointed or confirmed by the court.

Sec. 1108. As used in this act:

(a) "Ward" means an individual for whom a guardian is appointed.

(b) "Will" includes, but is not limited to, a codicil and a testamentary instrument that appoints a personal representative, revokes or revises another will, nominates a guardian, or expressly excludes or limits the right of an individual or class to succeed to the decedent's property that is passing by intestate succession.

## PART 2

### CONSTRUCTION AND GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 1201. This act shall be liberally construed and applied to promote its underlying purposes and policies, which include all of the following:

(a) To simplify and clarify the law concerning the affairs of decedents, missing individuals, protected individuals, minors, and legally incapacitated individuals.

(b) To discover and make effective a decedent's intent in distribution of the decedent's property.

(c) To promote a speedy and efficient system for liquidating a decedent's estate and making distribution to the decedent's successors.

(d) To facilitate use and enforcement of certain trusts.

(e) To make the law uniform among the various jurisdictions, both within and outside of this state.

Sec. 1203. (1) Unless displaced by the particular provisions of this act, general principles of law and equity supplement this act's provisions.

(2) This act is a general act intended as a unified coverage of its subject matter and a part of it shall not be considered impliedly repealed by subsequent legislation if that result can reasonably be avoided.

Sec. 1205. (1) The court may order a person to appear before the court and be examined upon the matter of a complaint that is filed with the court under oath by a fiduciary, beneficiary, creditor, or another interested person of a decedent's or ward's trust or estate alleging any of the following:

(a) The person is suspected of having, or has knowledge that another may have, concealed, embezzled, conveyed away, or disposed of the trustee's, decedent's, or ward's property.

(b) The person has possession or knowledge of a deed, conveyance, bond, contract, or other writing that contains evidence of, or tends to disclose, the right, title, interest, or claim of the trustee, decedent, or ward to any of the trust or estate.

(c) The person has possession or knowledge of a decedent's last will.

(2) If the person ordered under subsection (1) refuses to appear and be examined, or refuses to answer the interrogatories asked of the person that relate to the complaint, the judge may by warrant commit the person to the county jail to remain in custody until that person submits to the order of the court.

(3) If fraud is perpetrated in connection with a proceeding or in a statement filed under this act or if fraud is used to avoid or circumvent the provisions or purposes of this act, a person injured by the fraud may obtain appropriate relief against the perpetrator of the fraud or restitution from a person, other than a bona fide purchaser, that benefited from the fraud, whether innocent or not. An action under this subsection shall be commenced within 2 years after the discovery of the fraud, but an action shall not be brought against a person that is not a perpetrator of the fraud later than 5 years after the time of the fraud's commission. This section does not affect a remedy relating to fraud perpetrated against a decedent during his or her lifetime that affects the succession of the decedent's estate.

(4) If a person embezzles or wrongfully converts a decedent's property before letters of authority are granted, or refuses, without colorable claim of right, to transfer possession of the decedent's property to the personal representative upon demand, that person is liable in an action brought by the personal representative for the benefit of the estate for double the value of the property embezzled, converted, or withheld.

Sec. 1207. In addition to the rules of evidence in courts of general jurisdiction, the court shall determine death or status in accordance with the following:

(a) Death occurs when an individual is determined to be dead under the determination of death act, 1992 PA 90, MCL 333.1031 to 333.1034.

(b) A certified or authenticated copy of a death certificate purporting to be issued by an official or agency of the place where the death purportedly occurred is prima facie evidence of the decedent's identity and of the fact, place, date, and time of the decedent's death.

(c) A certified or authenticated copy of a record or report of a governmental agency, domestic or foreign, that an individual is missing, detained, dead, or alive is prima facie evidence of the individual's status and of the dates, circumstances, and places disclosed by the record or report.

(d) In the absence of prima facie evidence of death under subdivision (b) or (c), the fact of death may be established by clear and convincing evidence, including circumstantial evidence.

(e) The fact of death may be established under the procedure prescribed in section 1208 to establish the death of an individual described in that section.

(f) At the hearing upon the petition, the court upon its own motion may, or upon motion of an interested person shall, impanel a jury as provided by law. If it is established by a preponderance of the evidence presented at the hearing that an accident or disaster occurred in which the individual named in the petition was killed or may be presumed to have died, the court shall enter an order that establishes the location of the accident or disaster, the date of death, and, if possible, the time of death and that states that the individual is dead.

(g) A certified copy of an order issued under this section is sufficient when presented to the medical examiner for the preparation of a certificate of death. The medical examiner shall forward the completed certificate of death to the state registrar. The state registrar shall register the death as provided in section 2845 of the public health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.2845. The state registrar shall forward a copy of the registered death record to the local registrar of the place where the death occurred as established under this section.

Sec. 1208. (1) The procedure to establish the death of an individual who is an accident or disaster victim and whose remains have disappeared or are unidentifiable is as follows:

(a) If an accident or disaster occurs that apparently causes the death of the individual described in this section, any of the following individuals may petition the court for a determination of the cause and date of the presumed decedent's death:

(i) The medical examiner, sheriff, or prosecutor of a county described in subdivision (b).

(ii) The spouse or a next of kin, heir at law, devisee, personal representative named in a will, or creditor or debtor of the presumed decedent.

(b) Venue for a proceeding under this section is in 1 of the following:

(i) The court in a county in which the accident or disaster or any part of the accident or disaster occurs.

(ii) If the accident or disaster occurs upon or within the Great Lakes or their connecting waters, the court in a county adjacent to the scene of the accident or disaster.

(iii) If the accident or disaster did not occur in Michigan or adjoining waters, the court in the county of the presumed decedent's domicile.

(c) A petition to determine the cause and date of death as provided in this section shall not be filed less than 63 days or more than 7 years after the occurrence of the accident or disaster.

(d) A petition under this section shall set forth the facts and circumstances concerning the accident or disaster, the reasons for the belief that the presumed decedent died in the accident or disaster, that the presumed decedent has disappeared or is unidentifiable, and the names and addresses of all individuals known or believed to be heirs at law of the presumed decedent.

(e) Upon the filing of a petition under this section, the court shall fix the time and place for a hearing. The petitioner shall give or cause to be given notice of the hearing as provided by supreme court rule.

(2) An individual whose death is not otherwise established under this section or section 1207, who is absent for a continuous period of 5 years during which he or she has not been heard from, and whose absence is not satisfactorily explained after diligent search or inquiry is presumed to be dead. The individual's death is presumed to have occurred at the end of the period unless there is sufficient evidence to determine that death occurred earlier.

(3) In the absence of evidence disputing the time of death stated on a document described in section 1207(b), (c), or (g), a document described in section 1207(b), (c), or (g) that states a time of death 120 hours or more after the time of death of another individual, however the time of death of the other individual is determined, establishes by clear and convincing evidence that the individual survived the other individual by 120 hours.

Sec. 1209. For the purpose of granting consent or approval with regard to the acts or accounts of a personal representative or trustee, including relief from liability or penalty for failure to post bond, to register a trust, or to perform other duties, the sole holder or all coholders of a presently exercisable or testamentary general or special power of appointment, including 1 in the form of a power of amendment or revocation, are deemed to act for beneficiaries to the extent their interests, as objects, takers in default, or otherwise, are subject to the power. For the

purpose, however, of granting consent or approval to modification or termination of a trust or to deviation from its terms, including consent or approval to settlement agreements described in section 7207, only the holder or holders of a presently exercisable or testamentary general power of appointment are deemed to act for beneficiaries whose interests are subject to the power.

Sec. 1210. (1) The specific dollar amounts stated in sections 2102, 2402, 2404, 2405, and 3983 apply to decedents who die before January 1, 2001. For decedents who die after December 31, 2000, these specific dollar amounts shall be multiplied by the cost-of-living adjustment factor for the calendar year in which the decedent dies.

(2) Before February 1, 2001, and annually after 2001, the department of treasury shall publish the cost-of-living adjustment factor to be applied to the specific dollar amounts referred to in subsection (1) for decedents who die during that calendar year. A product resulting from application of the cost-of-living adjustment factor to a specific dollar amount must be rounded to the nearest \$1,000.00 amount.

Sec. 1211. Court personnel shall not provide or offer to provide legal advice or legal counsel to a fiduciary or an interested person and shall not complete a form, petition, or document for a fiduciary or interested person. This section does not prohibit the court from providing general information, blank forms, and information concerning the preparation of a form provided by the court.

Sec. 1212. (1) A fiduciary stands in a position of confidence and trust with respect to each heir, devisee, beneficiary, protected individual, or ward for whom the person is a fiduciary. A fiduciary shall observe the standard of care described in section 7302 and shall discharge all of the duties and obligations of a confidential and fiduciary relationship, including the duties of undivided loyalty; impartiality between heirs, devisees, and beneficiaries; care and prudence in actions; and segregation of assets held in the fiduciary capacity. With respect to investments, a fiduciary shall conform to the Michigan prudent investor rule.

(2) Except in response to legal process, in cases expressly required by law, or in the necessary or proper administration of the estate, a fiduciary shall not disclose facts or knowledge pertaining to property in the fiduciary's possession or to the affairs of those for whom the fiduciary is acting in any manner without the consent of the heirs, devisees, beneficiaries, protected individuals, or wards. The fiduciary of a minor or an incapacitated individual may give this consent on behalf of that individual. This subsection's restriction on disclosure does not apply in an action or proceeding in which the fiduciary and the fiduciary's heir, devisee, beneficiary, protected individual, or ward are parties adverse to each other after the identity and relationship is determined and established.

Sec. 1213. If an individual includes a provision in a will, trust document, or beneficiary designation that is designed to reduce federal estate tax liability to 0 or the lowest possible amount payable by describing a portion or amount measured by reference to the unified credit, the exemption equivalent, other credits, or other deductions, then unless specifically stated otherwise, the reference to the credits, exemption, or deductions shall be considered to include a reference to the family-owned business deduction available under section 2057 of the internal revenue code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. 2057. Unless specifically stated otherwise, the reference to the unified credit or exemption equivalent, or to the family-owned business deduction, shall be considered to refer to the credit, exemption, or deduction as it exists at the time of death of the individual.

Sec. 1214. Unless the governing instrument expressly authorizes such a transaction or investment, unless authorized by the court, or except as provided in section 185 of the banking code of 1969, 1969 PA 319, MCL 487.485, a fiduciary in the fiduciary's personal capacity shall not engage in a transaction with the estate that the fiduciary represents and shall not invest estate money in a company, corporation, or association with which the fiduciary is affiliated, other than as a bondholder or minority stockholder. A fiduciary in the fiduciary's personal capacity shall not personally derive a profit from the purchase, sale, or transfer of the estate's property. A fiduciary's deposit of money in a bank or trust company, in which the fiduciary is interested as an officer, director, or stockholder, does not constitute a violation of this section.

### PART 3

#### SCOPE, JURISDICTION, AND COURTS

Sec. 1301. Except as otherwise provided in this act, this act applies to all of the following:

- (a) The affairs and estate of a decedent, missing individual, or protected individual who is domiciled in this state.
- (b) A nonresident's property that is located in this state or property coming into the control of a fiduciary that is subject to the laws of this state.
- (c) An incapacitated individual or minor in this state.
- (d) Survivorship and related accounts in this state.
- (e) A trust subject to administration in this state.

Sec. 1302. The court has exclusive legal and equitable jurisdiction of all of the following:

(a) A matter that relates to the settlement of a deceased individual's estate, whether testate or intestate, who was at the time of death domiciled in the county or was at the time of death domiciled out of state leaving an estate within the county to be administered, including, but not limited to, all of the following proceedings:

- (i) The internal affairs of the estate.
- (ii) Estate administration, settlement, and distribution.
- (iii) Declaration of rights that involve an estate, devisee, heir, or fiduciary.
- (iv) Construction of a will.
- (v) Determination of heirs.
- (vi) Determination of death of an accident or disaster victim under section 1208.

(b) A proceeding that concerns the validity, internal affairs, or settlement of a trust; the administration, distribution, modification, reformation, or termination of a trust; or the declaration of rights that involve a trust, trustee, or trust beneficiary, including, but not limited to, proceedings to do all of the following:

- (i) Appoint or remove a trustee.
- (ii) Review the fees of a trustee.
- (iii) Require, hear, and settle interim or final accounts.
- (iv) Ascertain beneficiaries.
- (v) Determine a question that arises in the administration or distribution of a trust, including a question of construction of a will or trust.
- (vi) Instruct a trustee and determine relative to a trustee the existence or nonexistence of an immunity, power, privilege, duty, or right.
- (vii) Release registration of a trust.
- (viii) Determine an action or proceeding that involves settlement of an irrevocable trust.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in section 1021 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.1021, a proceeding that concerns a guardianship, conservatorship, or protective proceeding.

(d) A proceeding to require, hear, or settle the accounts of a fiduciary and to order, upon request of an interested person, instructions or directions to a fiduciary that concern an estate within the court's jurisdiction.

Sec. 1303. (1) In addition to the jurisdiction conferred by section 1302 and other laws, the court has concurrent legal and equitable jurisdiction to do all of the following in regard to an estate of a decedent, protected individual, ward, or trust:

- (a) Determine a property right or interest.
- (b) Authorize partition of property.
- (c) Authorize or compel specific performance of a contract in a joint or mutual will or of a contract to leave property by will.
- (d) Ascertain if individuals have survived as provided in this act.
- (e) Determine cy-pres or a gift, grant, bequest, or devise in trust or otherwise as provided in 1915 PA 280, MCL 554.351 to 554.353.
- (f) Hear and decide an action or proceeding against a distributee of a fiduciary of the estate to enforce liability that arises because the estate was liable upon some claim or demand before distribution of the estate.
- (g) Impose a constructive trust.
- (h) Hear and decide a claim by or against a fiduciary or trustee for the return of property.
- (i) Hear and decide a contract proceeding or action by or against an estate, trust, or ward.
- (j) Require, hear, or settle an accounting of an agent under a power of attorney.

(2) If the probate court has concurrent jurisdiction of an action or proceeding that is pending in another court, on the motion of a party to the action or proceeding and after a finding and order on the jurisdictional issue, the other court may order removal of the action or proceeding to the probate court. If the action or proceeding is removed to the probate court, the other court shall forward to the probate court the original of all papers in the action or proceeding. After that transfer, the other court shall not hear the action or proceeding, except by appeal or review as provided by law or supreme court rule, and the action or proceeding shall be prosecuted in the probate court as a probate court proceeding.

(3) The underlying purpose and policy of this section is to simplify the disposition of an action or proceeding involving a decedent's, a protected individual's, a ward's, or a trust estate by consolidating the probate and other related actions or proceedings in the probate court.



Sec. 1304. If this act specifies that the probate register perform an act or order, the probate judge, or the probate register or a deputy probate register if authorized in accordance with section 834 of the revised judicature act of 1961, being section 600.834 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, or in accordance with supreme court rule, may perform the act or order.

Sec. 1305. Appellate review, including the right to appellate review or interlocutory appeal and provisions as to time, manner, notice, appeal bond, stays, scope of review, record on appeal, briefs, arguments, and the power of the appellate court, is governed by the revised judicature act of 1961 and by supreme court rule.

Sec. 1306. Except as otherwise specifically provided in this act or by supreme court rule, a document, including an application, petition, or demand for notice, filed with the court under this act is considered to include an oath, affirmation, or statement to the effect that the document's representations are true as far as the individual executing or filing the document knows or is informed, and penalties for perjury may follow deliberate falsification in the document.

Sec. 1307. (1) Court records shall be maintained in accordance with section 832 of the revised judicature act of 1961, being section 600.832 of the Michigan Compiled Laws. Upon payment of the fee required by law, the probate register shall issue a certified copy of a probated will, letters issued to a personal representative, or any other record or paper filed or recorded. A certificate that relates to a probated will shall indicate whether the decedent was domiciled in this state and whether the probate was formal or informal. A certificate that relates to letters shall show the date of appointment and the date to which the letters continued in force.

(2) A certified copy of letters of authority may be recorded in the office of the register of deeds for the county in which a written instrument that is executed by a person under authority of the letters is recorded.

Sec. 1308. (1) A fiduciary is liable for a loss to an estate that arises from embezzlement by the fiduciary; for a loss through commingling estate money with the fiduciary's money; for negligence in the handling of an estate; for wanton and willful mishandling of an estate; for loss through self-dealing; for failure to account for an estate; for failure to terminate the estate when it is ready for termination; and for misfeasance, malfeasance, nonfeasance, or other breach of duty.

(2) In response to an interested person's petition or on its own motion, the court may at any time order a fiduciary of an estate under its jurisdiction to file an accounting. After due hearing on the accounting, the court shall enter an order that agrees with the law and the facts of the case.

Sec. 1309. Upon reliable information received from an interested person, county or state official, or other informed source, including the court's files, the court may enter an order in a proceeding to do either or both of the following:

(a) Appoint a special fiduciary to perform specified duties.

(b) Enjoin a person subject to the court's jurisdiction from conduct that presents an immediate risk of waste, unnecessary dissipation of an estate's or trust's property, or jeopardy to an interested person's interest. Under this subdivision, the court shall not enjoin a respondent in a proceeding to appoint a guardian or conservator or enjoin a ward or protected individual. An enjoined person shall be given a prompt hearing, if requested, to show cause why the order should be terminated.

#### PART 4

#### NOTICE, PARTIES, AND REPRESENTATION IN ESTATE LITIGATION AND OTHER MATTERS

Sec. 1401. (1) If notice of a hearing on a petition is required and except for specific notice requirements as otherwise provided by supreme court rule, the petitioner shall cause notice of the time and place of the hearing on the petition to be given to each interested person or the person's attorney if the person has appeared by attorney or requested that notice be sent to the person's attorney. Unless otherwise provided by supreme court rule, notice must be given by 1 of the following methods:

(a) Mailing a copy at least 14 days before the time set for the hearing by certified, registered, or first-class mail addressed to the person being notified at the post office address given in the person's demand for notice, if any, or at the person's office or place of residence, if known.

(b) Delivering a copy to the person being notified personally at least 7 days before the time set for the hearing.

(c) If the address or identity of the person is not known and cannot be ascertained with reasonable diligence, publishing once a copy in a newspaper having general circulation in the county where the hearing is to be held at least 14 days before the time set for the hearing.

(2) The court for good cause shown may provide for a different method or time of giving notice for a hearing.

(3) Proof that notice was given must be made at or before the hearing and filed in the proceeding.

(4) If a person entitled to notice under section 3306, 3310, 3403, 3414, 3705, or 5426 is a resident in and a citizen of a foreign country, the person required to give notice must notify the consul of the foreign nation in the city of New York or of the district having jurisdiction, or the consul, vice-consul, or consular agent resident in this state, if there is one, of the matters and with the particulars described in the relevant section of this act.

Sec. 1402. A person, including a guardian ad litem, conservator, or other fiduciary, may waive notice and consent to the granting of a petition by a writing signed by the person or the person's attorney and filed in the proceeding. A person for whom a guardianship or other protective order is sought, a ward, or a protected person may not waive notice. A fiduciary shall not waive or consent on a petition, account, or report made as the fiduciary or in a different fiduciary capacity.

Sec. 1403. In a formal proceeding that involves a trust or estate of a decedent, minor, protected individual, or incapacitated individual or in a judicially supervised settlement, the following apply:

(a) An interest to be affected shall be described in pleadings that give reasonable information to owners by name or class, by reference to the instrument that creates the interests, or in another appropriate manner.

(b) A person is bound by an order binding others in each of the following cases:

(i) An order that binds the sole holder or all coholders of a power of revocation or a presently exercisable or testamentary general or special power of appointment, including one in the form of a power of amendment, binds another person to the extent the person's interest, as an object, taker in default, or otherwise, is subject to the power.

(ii) To the extent there is no conflict of interest between the persons represented, an order that binds a conservator binds the person whose estate the conservator controls; an order that binds a guardian binds the ward if no conservator of the ward's estate has been appointed; an order that binds a trustee binds beneficiaries of the trust in proceedings to probate a will, to establish or add to a trust, or to review an act or account of a prior fiduciary, or in proceedings that involve a creditor or another third party; and an order that binds a personal representative binds a person interested in the undistributed assets of a decedent's estate in an action or proceeding by or against the estate. If there is no conflict of interest and a conservator or guardian has not been appointed, a parent may represent his or her minor child.

(iii) An unborn or unascertained person who is not otherwise represented is bound by an order to the extent the person's interest is adequately represented by another party that has a substantially identical interest in the proceeding.

(c) Notice is required as follows:

(i) Notice as prescribed by section 1401 shall be given to every interested person or to one who can bind an interested person as described in subdivision (b)(i) or (ii). Notice may be given both to a person and to another who may bind the person.

(ii) Notice is given to an unborn or unascertained person, who is not represented under subdivision (b)(i) or (ii), by giving notice to all known persons whose interests in the proceedings are substantially identical to those of the unborn or unascertained person.

(d) At any point in a proceeding, the court may appoint a guardian ad litem to represent the interest of a minor, an incapacitated individual, an unborn or unascertained person, or a person whose identity or address is unknown, if the court determines that representation of the interest otherwise would be inadequate. If not precluded by a conflict of interest, a guardian ad litem may be appointed to represent several persons or interests. The court shall set out the reasons for appointing a guardian ad litem as a part of the record of the proceeding. If he or she accepts the appointment, the guardian ad litem shall report of his or her investigation and recommendation concerning the matters for which he or she is appointed in writing or recorded testimony. After the attorney general files an appearance as required by law in an estate proceeding on behalf of an unknown or unascertained heir at law, the attorney general represents the interest of the heir at law, and the court shall not appoint a guardian ad litem. If a guardian ad litem was previously appointed for the interest, the appointment of the guardian ad litem terminates.

## PART 5

### PRUDENT INVESTOR RULE

Sec. 1501. (1) This part shall be known and may be cited as the "Michigan prudent investor rule". This part prescribes the Michigan prudent investor rule.

(2) As used in this part:

(a) "Governing instrument" includes, but is not limited to, a court order.

(b) "Portfolio" means all property of every kind and character held by a fiduciary on behalf of a fiduciary estate.

Sec. 1502. (1) A fiduciary shall invest and manage assets held in a fiduciary capacity as a prudent investor would, taking into account the purposes, terms, distribution requirements expressed in the governing instrument, and other circumstances of the fiduciary estate. To satisfy this standard, the fiduciary must exercise reasonable care, skill, and caution.

(2) The Michigan prudent investor rule is a default rule that may be expanded, restricted, eliminated, or otherwise altered by the provisions of the governing instrument. A fiduciary is not liable to a beneficiary to the extent that the fiduciary acted in reasonable reliance on the provisions of the governing instrument.

Sec. 1503. (1) A fiduciary's investment and management decisions with respect to individual assets shall be evaluated not in isolation, but rather in the context of the fiduciary estate portfolio as a whole and as a part of an overall investment strategy having risk and return objectives reasonably suited to the fiduciary estate.

(2) Among circumstances that a fiduciary must consider in investing and managing fiduciary assets are all of the following that are relevant to the fiduciary estate or its beneficiaries:

- (a) General economic conditions.
- (b) The possible effect of inflation or deflation.
- (c) The expected tax consequences of an investment decision or strategy.
- (d) The role that each investment or course of action plays within the overall portfolio, which may include financial assets, interests in closely-held enterprises, tangible and intangible personal property, and real property.
- (e) The expected total return from income and the appreciation of capital.
- (f) Other resources of the beneficiaries.
- (g) The need for liquidity, regularity of income, and preservation or appreciation of capital.
- (h) An asset's special relationship or special value, if any, to the purposes of the fiduciary estate or to 1 or more of the beneficiaries.

(3) A fiduciary shall make a reasonable effort to verify facts relevant to the investment and management of fiduciary assets.

(4) A fiduciary may invest in any kind of property or type of investment consistent with the standards of the Michigan prudent investor rule. A particular investment is not inherently prudent or imprudent.

(5) A fiduciary who has special skill or expertise, or is named fiduciary in reliance upon the fiduciary's representation that the fiduciary has special skill or expertise, has a duty to use that special skill or expertise.

Sec. 1504. A fiduciary shall diversify the investments of a fiduciary estate unless the fiduciary reasonably determines that, because of special circumstances, the purposes of the fiduciary estate are better served without diversifying.

Sec. 1505. Within a reasonable time after accepting appointment as a fiduciary or receiving fiduciary assets, a fiduciary shall review the assets, and make and implement decisions concerning the retention and disposition of assets, in order to bring the fiduciary portfolio into compliance with the purposes, terms, distribution requirements expressed in the governing instrument, and other circumstances of the fiduciary estate, and with the requirements of the Michigan prudent investor rule.

Sec. 1506. A fiduciary shall invest and manage fiduciary assets solely in the interest of the beneficiaries.

Sec. 1507. If a fiduciary estate has 2 or more beneficiaries, the fiduciary shall act impartially in investing and managing the fiduciary assets, and shall take into account any differing interests of the beneficiaries.

Sec. 1508. In investing and managing fiduciary assets, a fiduciary may only incur costs that are appropriate and reasonable in relation to the assets, the purposes of the fiduciary estate, and the skills of the fiduciary.

Sec. 1509. Compliance with the prudent investor rule is determined in light of the facts and circumstances that exist at the time of a fiduciary's decision or action, and not by hindsight. The prudent investor rule requires a standard of conduct, not outcome or performance.

Sec. 1510. (1) A fiduciary may delegate investment and management functions provided that the fiduciary exercises reasonable care, skill, and caution in all of the following:

- (a) Selecting an agent.
- (b) Establishing the scope and terms of the delegation, consistent with the purposes and terms of the governing instrument.

(c) Periodically reviewing the agent's actions in order to monitor the agent's performance and compliance with the terms of the delegation.

(2) A fiduciary who complies with the requirements of subsection (1) is not liable to the beneficiaries or to the fiduciary estate for a decision or action of the agent to whom the function was delegated.

(3) In performing a delegated function, an agent owes a duty to the fiduciary estate to exercise reasonable care to comply with the terms of the delegation. If an agent accepts the delegation of a fiduciary function from a fiduciary that is subject to the laws of this state, the agent submits to the jurisdiction of this state's court.

Sec. 1511. The following terms or similar language in a governing instrument, unless otherwise limited or modified, authorize any investment or strategy permitted under the Michigan prudent investor rule:

(a) "Investments permissible by law for investment of trust funds".

(b) "Legal investments".

(c) "Authorized investments".

(d) "Using the judgment and care under the circumstances then prevailing that persons of prudence, discretion, and intelligence exercise in the management of their own affairs, not in regard to speculation but in regard to the permanent disposition of their funds, considering the probable income as well as the probable safety of their capital".

(e) "Prudent man rule".

(f) "Prudent trustee rule".

(g) "Prudent person rule".

(h) "Prudent investor rule".

Sec. 1512. The Michigan prudent investor rule applies to a fiduciary estate that exists on or is created after this act's effective date. As applied to a fiduciary estate that exists on this act's effective date, the Michigan prudent investor rule governs only a decision or action that occurs after that date.

## ARTICLE II

### INTESTACY, WILLS, AND DONATIVE TRANSFERS

#### PART 1

#### INTESTATE SUCCESSION

Sec. 2101. (1) Any part of a decedent's estate not effectively disposed of by will passes by intestate succession to the decedent's heirs as prescribed in this act, except as modified by the decedent's will.

(2) A decedent by will may expressly exclude or limit the right of an individual or class to succeed to property of the decedent that passes by intestate succession. If that individual or a member of that class survives the decedent, the share of the decedent's intestate estate to which that individual or class would have succeeded passes as if that individual or each member of that class had disclaimed his or her intestate share.

Sec. 2102. (1) The intestate share of a decedent's surviving spouse is 1 of the following:

(a) The entire intestate estate if no descendant or parent of the decedent survives the decedent.

(b) The first \$150,000.00, plus 1/2 of any balance of the intestate estate, if all of the decedent's surviving descendants are also descendants of the surviving spouse and there is no other descendant of the surviving spouse who survives the decedent.

(c) The first \$150,000.00, plus 3/4 of any balance of the intestate estate, if no descendant of the decedent survives the decedent, but a parent of the decedent survives the decedent.

(d) The first \$150,000.00, plus 1/2 of any balance of the intestate estate, if all of the decedent's surviving descendants are also descendants of the surviving spouse and the surviving spouse has 1 or more surviving descendants who are not descendants of the decedent.

(e) The first \$150,000.00, plus 1/2 of any balance of the intestate estate, if 1 or more, but not all, of the decedent's surviving descendants are not descendants of the surviving spouse.

(f) The first \$100,000.00, plus 1/2 of any balance of the intestate estate, if none of the decedent's surviving descendants are descendants of the surviving spouse.

(2) Each dollar amount listed in subsection (1) shall be adjusted as provided in section 1210.

Sec. 2103. Any part of the intestate estate that does not pass to the decedent's surviving spouse under section 2102, or the entire intestate estate if there is no surviving spouse, passes in the following order to the following individuals who survive the decedent:

- (a) The decedent's descendants by representation.
- (b) If there is no surviving descendant, the decedent's parents equally if both survive or to the surviving parent.
- (c) If there is no surviving descendant or parent, the descendants of the decedent's parents or of either of them by representation.
- (d) If there is no surviving descendant, parent, or descendant of a parent, but the decedent is survived by 1 or more grandparents or descendants of grandparents, 1/2 of the estate passes to the decedent's paternal grandparents equally if both survive, or to the surviving paternal grandparent, or to the descendants of the decedent's paternal grandparents or either of them if both are deceased, the descendants taking by representation; and the other 1/2 passes to the decedent's maternal relatives in the same manner. If there is no surviving grandparent or descendant of a grandparent on either the paternal or the maternal side, the entire estate passes to the decedent's relatives on the other side in the same manner as the 1/2.

Sec. 2104. An individual who fails to survive the decedent by 120 hours is considered to have predeceased the decedent for purposes of homestead allowance, exempt property, and intestate succession, and the decedent's heirs are determined accordingly. If it is not established by clear and convincing evidence that an individual who would otherwise be an heir survived the decedent by 120 hours, it is considered that the individual failed to survive for the required period. This section does not apply if its application would result in a taking of the intestate estate by the state under section 2105.

Sec. 2105. If there is no taker under the provisions of this article, the intestate estate passes to this state.

Sec. 2106. (1) If, under section 2103(a), a decedent's intestate estate or a part of the estate passes by representation to the decedent's descendants, the estate or part of the estate is divided into as many equal shares as the total of the surviving descendants in the generation nearest to the decedent that contains 1 or more surviving descendants and the deceased descendants in the same generation who left surviving descendants, if any. Each surviving descendant in the nearest generation is allocated 1 share. The remaining shares, if any, are combined and then divided in the same manner among the surviving descendants of the deceased descendants as if the surviving descendants who were allocated a share and their surviving descendants had predeceased the decedent.

(2) If, under section 2103(c) or (d), a decedent's intestate estate or a part of the estate passes by representation to the descendants of the decedent's deceased parents or either of them or to the descendants of the decedent's deceased paternal or maternal grandparents or either of them, the estate or part of the estate is divided into as many equal shares as the total of the surviving descendants in the generation nearest the deceased parents or either of them, or the deceased grandparents or either of them, that contains 1 or more surviving descendants and the deceased descendants in the same generation who left surviving descendants, if any. Each surviving descendant in the nearest generation is allocated 1 share. The remaining shares, if any, are combined and then divided in the same manner among the surviving descendants of the deceased descendants as if the surviving descendants who were allocated a share and their surviving descendants had predeceased the decedent.

(3) As used in this section:

(a) "Deceased descendant", "deceased parent", or "deceased grandparent" means a descendant, parent, or grandparent who either predeceased the decedent or is considered to have predeceased the decedent under section 2104.

(b) "Surviving descendant" means a descendant who neither predeceased the decedent nor is considered to have predeceased the decedent under section 2104.

Sec. 2107. A relative of the half blood inherits the same share he or she would inherit if he or she were of the whole blood.

Sec. 2108. An individual in gestation at a particular time is treated as living at that time if the individual lives 120 hours or more after birth.

Sec. 2109. (1) If an individual dies intestate as to all or a portion of his or her estate, property the decedent gave during the decedent's lifetime to an individual who, at the decedent's death, is an heir is treated as an advancement against the heir's intestate share only under either of the following circumstances:

(a) The decedent declared in a contemporaneous writing or the heir acknowledged in writing that the gift is an advancement.

(b) The decedent's contemporaneous writing or the heir's written acknowledgment otherwise indicates that the gift is to be taken into account in computing the division and distribution of the decedent's intestate estate.

(2) For purposes of subsection (1), property advanced is valued as of the time the heir came into possession or enjoyment of the property or as of the time of the decedent's death, whichever first occurs.

(3) If the recipient of property advanced fails to survive the decedent, the property is not taken into account in computing the division and distribution of the decedent's intestate estate, unless the decedent's contemporaneous writing provides otherwise.

Sec. 2110. A debt owed to a decedent is not charged against the intestate share of any individual except the debtor. If the debtor fails to survive the decedent, the debt is not taken into account in computing the intestate share of the debtor's descendants.

Sec. 2111. An individual is not disqualified to take as an heir because the individual or an individual through whom he or she claims is or has been an alien.

Sec. 2113. An individual who is related to the decedent through 2 lines of relationship is entitled to only a single share based on the relationship that would entitle the individual to the larger share.

Sec. 2114. (1) Except as provided in subsections (2), (3), and (4), for purposes of intestate succession by, through, or from an individual, an individual is the child of his or her natural parents, regardless of their marital status. The parent and child relationship may be established in any of the following manners:

(a) If a child is born or conceived during a marriage, both spouses are presumed to be the natural parents of the child for purposes of intestate succession. A child conceived by a married woman with the consent of her husband following utilization of assisted reproductive technology is considered as their child for purposes of intestate succession. Consent of the husband is presumed unless the contrary is shown by clear and convincing evidence. If a man and a woman participated in a marriage ceremony in apparent compliance with the law before the birth of a child, even though the attempted marriage is void, the child is presumed to be their child for purposes of intestate succession.

(b) Only the individual presumed to be the natural parent of a child under subdivision (a) may disprove a presumption that is relevant to the relationship, and this exclusive right to do so terminates upon the death of the presumed parent.

(c) If a child is born out of wedlock or if a child is born or conceived during a marriage but is not the issue of that marriage, a man is considered to be the natural father of that child for purposes of intestate succession if any of the following occur:

(i) The man joins with the mother of the child and acknowledges that child as his child by completing an acknowledgment of parentage as prescribed in the acknowledgment of parentage act, 1996 PA 305, MCL 722.1001 to 722.1013.

(ii) The man joins the mother in a written request for a correction of certificate of birth pertaining to the child that results in issuance of a substituted certificate recording the birth of the child.

(iii) The man and child have borne a mutually acknowledged relationship of parent and child that begins before the child becomes age 18 and continues until terminated by the death of either.

(iv) The man is determined to be the child's father and an order of filiation establishing that paternity is entered as provided in the paternity act, 1956 PA 205, MCL 722.711 to 722.730.

(2) An adopted individual is the child of his or her adoptive parent or parents and not of his or her natural parents, but adoption of a child by the spouse of either natural parent has no effect on either the relationship between the child and that natural parent or, except as provided in subsection (3), the right of the child or a descendant of the child to inherit from or through the other natural parent. An individual is considered to be adopted for purposes of this subsection when a court of competent jurisdiction enters an interlocutory decree of adoption that is not vacated or reversed.

(3) The permanent termination of parental rights of a minor child by an order of a court of competent jurisdiction; by a release for purposes of adoption given by the parent, but not a guardian, to the family independence agency or a licensed child placement agency, or before a probate or juvenile court; or by any other process recognized by the law governing the parent-child status at the time of termination, excepting termination by emancipation or death, ends kinship between the parent whose rights are so terminated and the child for purposes of intestate succession by that parent from or through that child.

(4) Inheritance from or through a child by either natural parent or his or her kindred is precluded unless that natural parent has openly treated the child as his or hers, and has not refused to support the child.

## PART 2

### ELECTIVE SHARE OF SURVIVING SPOUSE

Sec. 2201. Subject to sections 2203 to 2205, upon an individual's death, the individual's surviving spouse has the right described by section 2202.

Sec. 2202. (1) The surviving spouse of a decedent who was domiciled in this state and who dies testate may file with the court an election in writing that the spouse elects 1 of the following:

(a) That the spouse will abide by the terms of the will.

(b) That the spouse will take 1/2 of the sum or share that would have passed to the spouse had the testator died intestate, reduced by 1/2 of the value of all property derived by the spouse from the decedent by any means other than testate or intestate succession upon the decedent's death.

(c) If a widow, that she will take her dower right under sections 1 to 29 of 1846 RS 66, MCL 558.1 to 558.29.

(2) The surviving spouse is entitled to only 1 election choice under subsection (1) unless the contrary plainly appears by the will to be intended by the testator. The right of election of the surviving spouse must be exercised during the lifetime of the surviving spouse. The election must be made within 63 days after the date for presentment of claims or within 63 days after the filing of proof of service of the inventory upon the surviving spouse, whichever is later.

(3) Notice of right of election shall be served upon the decedent's spouse, if any, as provided in section 3705(5), and proof of that notice shall be filed with the court. An election as provided by this section may be filed instead of service of notice and filing of proof.

(4) In the case of a legally incapacitated person, the right of election may be exercised only by order of the court in which a proceeding as to that person's property is pending, after finding that exercise is necessary to provide adequate support for the legally incapacitated person during that person's life expectancy.

(5) The surviving spouse of a decedent who was not domiciled in this state is entitled to election against the will only as may be provided by the law of the place in which the decedent was domiciled at the time of death.

(6) As used in subsection (1), "property derived by the spouse from the decedent" includes all of the following transfers:

(a) A transfer made within 2 years before the decedent's death to the extent that the transfer is subject to federal gift or estate taxes.

(b) A transfer made before the date of death subject to a power retained by the decedent that would make the property, or a portion of the property, subject to federal estate tax.

(c) A transfer effectuated by the decedent's death through joint ownership, tenancy by the entireties, insurance beneficiary, or similar means.

Sec. 2203. If a surviving spouse fails to make an election within the time specified in section 2202, it is conclusively presumed that the spouse elects to abide by the terms of the will except in either of the following instances:

(a) If an election is not made and the principal administration is closed, and if after that administration is closed it appears to the court that assets belonging to the estate are discovered and administration is granted, the election may be made out of the newly discovered assets only upon good cause shown at any time before that administration is closed.

(b) Before the estate is closed, upon petition of the spouse and after notice to all interested persons, the court may permit the spouse to make an election to which the spouse was entitled as though the spouse had done so within the time specified in section 2202, if the court considers it proper on account of litigation connected with the estate or the establishment of further claims against the deceased, or for other cause. The court shall limit the time within which the spouse may make an election under this subdivision.

Sec. 2204. Filing of a petition to admit the will of a deceased spouse, failing to object or consenting to admission of the will to probate, or accepting appointment as a personal representative does not prevent a surviving spouse's election to take against the will.

Sec. 2205. The rights of the surviving spouse to homestead allowance, election, exempt property, or family allowance may be waived, wholly or partially, before or after marriage, by a written contract, agreement, or waiver signed by the party waiving after fair disclosure. Unless it provides to the contrary, a waiver of "all rights" in the property or estate of a present or prospective spouse or a complete property settlement entered into after or in anticipation of separate maintenance is a waiver of all rights to homestead allowance, election, exempt property, and family allowance by the spouse in the property of the other and is an irrevocable renunciation by the spouse of all benefits that would otherwise pass to the spouse from the other spouse by intestate succession or by virtue of a will executed before the waiver or property settlement.

Sec. 2206. Sections 2201 to 2205 shall not be construed as creating an inchoate or choate right to the rights described in those sections in the property of a spouse before the death of a spouse.

### PART 3

#### SPOUSE OR CHILD NOT PROVIDED FOR IN THE WILL

Sec. 2301. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), if a testator's surviving spouse marries the testator after the testator executes his or her will, the surviving spouse is entitled to receive, as an intestate share, not less than the value of the share of the estate the surviving spouse would have received if the testator had died intestate as to that portion of the testator's estate, if any, that is not any of the following:

(a) Property devised to a child of the testator who was born before the testator married the surviving spouse and who is not the surviving spouse's child.

(b) Property devised to a descendant of a child described in subdivision (a).

(c) Property that passes under section 2603 or 2604 to a child described in subdivision (a) or to a descendant of such a child.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply if any of the following are true:

(a) From the will or other evidence, it appears that the will was made in contemplation of the testator's marriage to the surviving spouse.

(b) The will expresses the intention that it is to be effective notwithstanding a subsequent marriage.

(c) The testator provided for the spouse by transfer outside the will, and the intent that the transfer be a substitute for a testamentary provision is shown by the testator's statements or is reasonably inferred from the amount of the transfer or other evidence.

(3) In satisfying the share provided by this section, devises made by the will to the testator's surviving spouse, if any, are applied first, and other devises, other than a devise to a child of the testator who was born before the testator married the surviving spouse and who is not the surviving spouse's child or a devise or substitute gift under section 2603 or 2604 to a descendant of such a child, abate as provided in section 3902.

Sec. 2302. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), if a testator fails to provide in his or her will for a child of the testator born or adopted after the execution of the will, the omitted after-born or after-adopted child receives a share in the estate as provided in 1 of the following:

(a) If the testator had no child living when he or she executed the will, an omitted after-born or after-adopted child receives a share in the estate equal in value to that which the child would have received had the testator died intestate, unless the will devised all or substantially all of the estate to the other parent of the omitted child and that other parent survives the testator and is entitled to take under the will.

(b) If the testator had 1 or more children living when he or she executed the will, and the will devised property or an interest in property to 1 or more of the then-living children, an omitted after-born or after-adopted child is entitled to share in the testator's estate subject to all of the following:

(i) The portion of the testator's estate in which the omitted after-born or after-adopted child is entitled to share is limited to devises made to the testator's then-living children under the will.

(ii) The omitted after-born or after-adopted child is entitled to receive the share of the testator's estate, as limited in subparagraph (i), that the child would have received had the testator included all omitted after-born and after-adopted children with the children to whom devises were made under the will and had given an equal share of the estate to each child.

(iii) To the extent feasible, the interest granted an omitted after-born or after-adopted child under this section must be of the same character, whether equitable or legal, present or future, as that devised to the testator's then-living children under the will.

(iv) In satisfying a share provided by this subdivision, devises to the testator's children who were living when the will was executed abate ratably. In abating the devises of the then-living children, the court shall preserve to the maximum extent possible the character of the testamentary plan adopted by the testator.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply if either of the following applies:

(a) It appears from the will that the omission was intentional.

(b) The testator provided for the omitted after-born or after-adopted child by transfer outside the will and the intent that the transfer be a substitute for a testamentary provision is shown by the testator's statements or is reasonably inferred from the amount of the transfer or other evidence.



(3) If at the time of execution of the will the testator fails to provide in his or her will for a living child solely because he or she believes the child to be dead, the child is entitled to share in the estate as if the child were an omitted after-born or after-adopted child.

(4) In satisfying a share provided by subsection (1)(a), devises made by the will abate under section 3902.

#### PART 4

#### EXEMPT PROPERTY AND ALLOWANCES

Sec. 2401. This part applies to the estate of a decedent who dies domiciled in this state. For a decedent who dies domiciled outside of this state, rights to homestead allowance, family allowance, and exempt property are governed by the law of the decedent's domicile at death.

Sec. 2402. A decedent's surviving spouse is entitled to a homestead allowance of \$15,000.00, adjusted as provided in section 1210. If there is no surviving spouse, each minor child and each dependent child of the decedent is entitled to a homestead allowance equal to \$15,000.00, adjusted as provided in section 1210, divided by the number of the decedent's minor and dependent children. The homestead allowance is exempt from and has priority over all claims against the estate. A homestead allowance is in addition to any share passing to the surviving spouse or minor or dependent child by the will of the decedent, unless otherwise provided, by intestate succession, or by elective share.

Sec. 2403. (1) For their maintenance during the period of administration, a reasonable family allowance is payable to the decedent's surviving spouse and minor children whom the decedent was obligated to support, and children of the decedent or another who were in fact being supported by the decedent, which allowance shall not continue for longer than 1 year if the estate is inadequate to discharge allowed claims. The family allowance may be paid in a lump sum or in periodic installments. The family allowance is payable to the surviving spouse, if living, for the use of the surviving spouse and minor and dependent children; otherwise to the children or persons having their care and custody. If a minor child or dependent child is not living with the surviving spouse, the allowance may be paid partially to the child or to a fiduciary or other person having the child's care and custody, and partially to the spouse, as their needs may appear.

(2) The family allowance is exempt from and has priority over all claims except the homestead allowance. The family allowance is not chargeable against a benefit or share passing to the surviving spouse or children by the will of the decedent, unless otherwise provided, by intestate succession, or by way of elective share. The death of an individual entitled to family allowance terminates the right to allowances not yet paid.

Sec. 2404. (1) The decedent's surviving spouse is also entitled to household furniture, automobiles, furnishings, appliances, and personal effects from the estate up to a value not to exceed \$10,000.00 more than the amount of any security interests to which the property is subject. If there is no surviving spouse, the decedent's children are entitled jointly to the same value.

(2) If encumbered assets are selected and the value in excess of security interests, plus that of other exempt property, is less than \$10,000.00, or if there is not \$10,000.00 worth of exempt property in the estate, the spouse or children are entitled to other assets of the estate, if any, to the extent necessary to make up the \$10,000.00 value. Rights to exempt property and assets needed to make up a deficiency of exempt property have priority over all claims against the estate, except that the right to assets to make up a deficiency of exempt property abates as necessary to permit payment of homestead allowance and family allowance.

(3) The rights under this section are in addition to a benefit or share passing to the surviving spouse or children by the decedent's will, unless otherwise provided, by intestate succession, or by elective share. The \$10,000.00 amount expressed in this section shall be adjusted as provided in section 1210.

Sec. 2405. (1) If the estate is otherwise sufficient, property specifically devised shall not be used to satisfy rights to homestead allowance or exempt property. Subject to this restriction, the surviving spouse, fiduciaries or others that have the care and custody of minor children, or children who are adults may select property of the estate as homestead allowance and exempt property.

(2) The personal representative may make those selections if the surviving spouse, the adult children, or those acting for the minor children are unable or fail to do so within a reasonable time. The personal representative may execute a deed of distribution or other instrument to establish the ownership of property taken as homestead allowance or exempt property. The personal representative may determine the family allowance in a lump sum not exceeding \$18,000.00, adjusted as provided in section 1210, or periodic installments not exceeding 1/12 of that amount per month for 1 year, and may disburse funds of the estate in payment of the family allowance and any part of the homestead allowance payable in cash.

(3) The personal representative or an interested person aggrieved by a selection, determination, payment, proposed payment, or failure to act under this section may petition the court for appropriate relief, which may include a family allowance other than that which the personal representative determined or could have determined.

PART 5

WILLS, WILL CONTRACTS, AND CUSTODY AND DEPOSIT OF WILLS

Sec. 2501. An individual 18 years of age or older who is of sound mind may make a will.

Sec. 2502. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) and in sections 2503, 2506, and 2513, a will is valid only if it is all of the following:

(a) In writing.

(b) Signed by the testator or in the testator's name by some other individual in the testator's conscious presence and by the testator's direction.

(c) Signed by at least 2 individuals, each of whom signed within a reasonable time after he or she witnessed either the signing of the will as described in subdivision (b) or the testator's acknowledgment of that signature or acknowledgment of the will.

(2) A will that does not comply with subsection (1) is valid as a holographic will, whether or not witnessed, if it is dated, and if the testator's signature and the document's material portions are in the testator's handwriting.

(3) Intent that the document constitutes a testator's will can be established by extrinsic evidence, including, for a holographic will, portions of the document that are not in the testator's handwriting.

Sec. 2503. Although a document or writing added upon a document was not executed in compliance with section 2502, the document or writing is treated as if it had been executed in compliance with that section if the proponent of the document or writing establishes by clear and convincing evidence that the decedent intended the document or writing to constitute any of the following:

(a) The decedent's will.

(b) A partial or complete revocation of the decedent's will.

(c) An addition to or an alteration of the decedent's will.

(d) A partial or complete revival of the decedent's formerly revoked will or of a formerly revoked portion of the decedent's will.

Sec. 2504. (1) A will may be simultaneously executed, attested, and made self-proved by acknowledgment of the will by the testator and 2 witnesses' sworn statements, each made before an officer authorized to administer oaths under the laws of the state in which execution occurs and evidenced by the officer's certificate, under official seal, in substantially the following form:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, the testator, sign my name to this document on \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_. I have taken an oath, administered by the officer whose signature and seal appear on this document, swearing that the statements in this document are true. I declare to that officer that this document is my will; that I sign it willingly or willingly direct another to sign for me; that I execute it as my voluntary act for the purposes expressed in this will; and that I am 18 years of age or older, of sound mind, and under no constraint or undue influence.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature) Testator

We, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, the witnesses, sign our names to this document and have taken an oath, administered by the officer whose signature and seal appear on this document, to swear that all of the following statements are true: the individual signing this document as the testator executes the document as his or her will, signs it willingly or willingly directs another to sign for him or her, and executes it as his or her voluntary act for the purposes expressed in this will; each of us, in the testator's presence, signs this will as witness to the testator's signing; and, to the best of our knowledge, the testator is 18 years of age or older, of sound mind, and under no constraint or undue influence.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature) Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature) Witness

The State of \_\_\_\_\_

County of \_\_\_\_\_

Sworn to and signed in my presence by \_\_\_\_\_, the testator, and sworn to and signed in my presence by \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, witnesses, on \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ month/day \_\_\_\_\_ year.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(SEAL) (Signed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(official capacity of officer)

(2) An attested will may be made self-proved at any time after its execution by the acknowledgment of the will by the testator and the sworn statements of the witnesses to the will, each made before an officer authorized to administer oaths under the laws of the state in which the acknowledgment occurs and evidenced by the officer's certificate, under the official seal, attached or annexed to the will in substantially the following form:

The State of \_\_\_\_\_  
County of \_\_\_\_\_

We, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, the testator and the witnesses, respectively, whose names are signed to the attached will, sign this document and have taken an oath, administered by the officer whose signature and seal appear on this document, to swear that all of the following statements are true: the individual signing this document as the will's testator executed the will as his or her will, signed it willingly or willingly directed another to sign for him or her, and executed it as his or her voluntary act for the purposes expressed in the will; each witness, in the testator's presence, signed the will as witness to the testator's signing; and, to the best of the witnesses' knowledge, the testator, at the time of the will's execution, was 18 years of age or older, of sound mind, and under no constraint or undue influence.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature) Testator

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature) Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature) Witness

Sworn to and signed in my presence by \_\_\_\_\_, the testator, and sworn to and signed in my presence by \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, witnesses, on \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ month/day \_\_\_\_\_ year.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(SEAL) (Signed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(official capacity of officer)

(3) A codicil to a will may be simultaneously executed and attested, and both the codicil and the original will made self-proved, by acknowledgment of the codicil by the testator and by witnesses' sworn statements, each made before an officer authorized to administer oaths under the laws of the state in which execution occurs and evidenced by the officer's certificate, under official seal, in substantially the following form:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, the testator, sign my name to this document on \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_. I have taken an oath, administered by the officer whose signature and seal appear on this document, swearing that the statements in this document are true. I declare to that officer that this document is a codicil to my will; that I sign it willingly or willingly direct another to sign for me; that I execute it as my voluntary act for the purposes expressed in this codicil; and that I am 18 years of age or older, of sound mind, and under no constraint or undue influence.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature) Testator

We, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, the witnesses, sign our names to this document and have taken an oath, administered by the officer whose signature and seal appear on this document, to swear that all of the following statements are true: the individual signing this document as the testator executes the document as a codicil to his or her will, signs it willingly or willingly directs another to sign for him or her, and executes it as his or her voluntary act for the purposes expressed in this codicil; each of us, in the testator's presence, signs this codicil as witness to the testator's signing; and, to the best of our knowledge, the testator is 18 years of age or older, of sound mind, and under no constraint or undue influence.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature) Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature) Witness

The State of \_\_\_\_\_  
County of \_\_\_\_\_

Sworn to and signed in my presence by \_\_\_\_\_, the testator, and sworn to and signed in my presence by \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, witnesses, on \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ month/day \_\_\_\_\_ year.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(SEAL) (Signed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(official capacity of officer)

(4) If necessary to prove the will's due execution, a signature affixed to a self-proving sworn statement attached to a will is considered a signature affixed to the will.

Sec. 2505. (1) An individual generally competent to be a witness may act as a witness to a will.

(2) The signing of a will by an interested witness does not invalidate the will or any provision of it.

Sec. 2506. A written will is valid if executed in compliance with section 2502 or 2503, with the law at the time of execution of the place where the will is executed, or with the law of the place where, at the time of execution or at the time of death, the testator is domiciled, has a place of abode, or is a national.

Sec. 2507. (1) A will or a part of a will is revoked by either of the following acts:

(a) Execution of a subsequent will that revokes the previous will or a part of the will expressly or by inconsistency.

(b) Performance of a revocatory act on the will, if the testator performed the act with the intent and for the purpose of revoking the will or a part of the will or if another individual performed the act in the testator's conscious presence and by the testator's direction. For purposes of this subdivision, "revocatory act on the will" includes burning, tearing, canceling, obliterating, or destroying the will or a part of the will. A burning, tearing, or canceling is a revocatory act on the will, whether or not the burn, tear, or cancellation touches any of the words on the will.

(2) If a subsequent will does not expressly revoke a previous will, the execution of the subsequent will wholly revokes the previous will by inconsistency if the testator intended the subsequent will to replace rather than supplement the previous will.

(3) The testator is presumed to have intended a subsequent will to replace rather than supplement a previous will if the subsequent will makes a complete disposition of the testator's estate. If this presumption arises and is not rebutted by clear and convincing evidence, the previous will is revoked, and only the subsequent will is operative on the testator's death.

(4) The testator is presumed to have intended a subsequent will to supplement rather than replace a previous will if the subsequent will does not make a complete disposition of the testator's estate. If this presumption arises and is not rebutted by clear and convincing evidence, the subsequent will revokes the previous will only to the extent the subsequent will is inconsistent with the previous will, and each will is fully operative on the testator's death to the extent they are not inconsistent.

Sec. 2508. Except as provided in sections 2802 to 2809, a change of circumstances does not revoke a will or a part of a will.

Sec. 2509. (1) If a subsequent will that wholly revoked a previous will is later revoked by a revocatory act under section 2507(1)(b), the previous will remains revoked unless it is revived. The previous will is revived if it is evident from the circumstances of the revocation of the subsequent will or from the testator's contemporary or subsequent declarations that the testator intended the previous will to take effect as executed.

(2) If a subsequent will that partly revoked a previous will is later revoked by a revocatory act under section 2507(1)(b), a revoked part of the previous will is revived unless it is evident from the circumstances of the revocation of the subsequent will or from the testator's contemporary or subsequent declarations that the testator did not intend the revoked part to take effect as executed.

(3) If a subsequent will that revoked a previous will in whole or in part is later revoked by another, later will, the previous will remains revoked in whole or in part, unless it or its revoked part is revived. The previous will or its revoked part is revived to the extent it appears from the terms of the later will that the testator intended the previous will to take effect.

Sec. 2510. A writing in existence when a will is executed may be incorporated by reference if the language of the will manifests this intent and describes the writing sufficiently to permit its identification.

Sec. 2511. (1) A will may validly devise property to the trustee of a trust established or to be established in any of the following manners:

(a) During the testator's lifetime by the testator, by the testator and some other person, or by some other person, including a funded or unfunded life insurance trust, although the settlor has reserved any or all rights of ownership of the insurance contracts.

(b) At the testator's death by the testator's devise to the trustee, if the trust is identified in the testator's will and its terms are set forth in a written instrument, other than a will, executed before, concurrently with, or after the execution of the testator's will or in another individual's will if that other individual has predeceased the testator, regardless of the existence, size, or character of the trust corpus.

(2) A devise described in subsection (1) is not invalid because the trust is amendable or revocable, or because the trust was amended after the execution of the will or the testator's death. Unless the testator's will provides otherwise, property devised to a trust described in subsection (1) is not held under a testamentary trust of the testator, but it becomes a part of the trust to which it is devised, and shall be administered and disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the governing instrument setting forth the terms of the trust, including an amendment to the trust made before or after the testator's death.

(3) Unless the testator's will provides otherwise, a revocation or termination of the trust before the testator's death causes the devise to lapse.

Sec. 2512. A will may dispose of property by reference to acts and events that have significance apart from their effect upon the dispositions made by the will, whether they occur before or after the execution of the will or before or after the testator's death. The execution or revocation of another individual's will is such an event.

Sec. 2513. Whether or not the provisions relating to a holographic will apply, a will may refer to a written statement or list to dispose of items of tangible personal property not otherwise specifically disposed of by the will, other than money. To be admissible under this section as evidence of the intended disposition, the writing must be signed by the testator and must describe the items and the devisees with reasonable certainty. The writing may be referred to as one to be in existence at the time of the testator's death; it may be prepared before or after the execution of the will; it may be altered by the testator after its preparation; and it may be a writing that has no significance apart from its effect on the dispositions made by the will.

Sec. 2514. (1) If executed after July 1, 1979, a contract to make a will or devise, not to revoke a will or devise, or to die intestate may be established only by 1 or more of the following:

- (a) Provisions of a will stating material provisions of the contract.
- (b) An express reference in a will to a contract and extrinsic evidence proving the terms of the contract.
- (c) A writing signed by the decedent evidencing the contract.

(2) The execution of a joint will or mutual wills does not create a presumption of a contract not to revoke the will or wills.

Sec. 2515. (1) A will in writing that is enclosed in a sealed wrapper, on which is endorsed the testator's name, place of residence, and social security number or state of Michigan driver's license number, if any, and the day on which and the name of the person by whom it is delivered, may be deposited by the individual making the will, or by a person for him or her, with the court in the county where the testator resides. The court shall receive and safely keep the will and give a certificate of the deposit of the will. For this service, the court shall charge and collect a fee as provided by supreme court rule or the revised judiciary act of 1961.

(2) During the lifetime of the testator, the will shall be delivered only to the testator, or to some person authorized by the testator in writing that is duly proved by the oath of a subscribing witness. After the death of the testator and at the first session of the court after the court receives notice of the testator's death, the will shall be publicly opened and retained by the court.

(3) After the death of the testator, if jurisdiction of the will for probate belongs to a court in another county, upon request of the personal representative named in the will or another person interested in its provisions, the will shall be forwarded by registered mail to the other court or delivered to the personal representative, or to some other person interested in the provisions of the will, to be presented for probate in the other court.

Sec. 2516. A custodian of a will or codicil or person having possession or care of a will or codicil shall forward it to the court having jurisdiction with reasonable promptness after the death of the testator either by delivering it personally or by sending it properly addressed by registered mail. A person who neglects to perform this duty without reasonable cause is liable for damages that are sustained by the neglect. A person who willfully refuses or fails to deliver a will or codicil after being ordered by the court in a proceeding brought for the purpose of compelling delivery is guilty of contempt of court and subject to the penalty for contempt.

Sec. 2517. (1) In the estate of a decedent who died before October 1, 1993, the following apply to the opening of a safe deposit box:

(a) A safe deposit box of which the decedent was an individual or joint lessee may be opened following the decedent's death only upon compliance with the Michigan estate tax act, 1899 PA 188, MCL 205.201 to 205.256.

(b) A safe deposit box of the decedent who was an individual or joint lessee and for whom a fiduciary was appointed may be opened by that fiduciary in a like manner as provided by the Michigan estate tax act, 1899 PA 188, MCL 205.201 to 205.256, as it relates to deceased individuals.

(2) In the estate of a decedent who dies after September 30, 1993, the following apply to the opening of a safe deposit box:

(a) Whenever it appears to the court by petition of an interested person that a safe and collateral deposit company, trust company, corporation, bank, or other institution has leased to a decedent, either as an individual or joint lessee, a safe deposit box in the county in which the probate court has jurisdiction and that the safe deposit box may contain a will of the decedent or a deed to a burial plot in which the decedent is to be interred, the court may make an order directing the institution to permit the person named in the order to examine the safe deposit box in the presence of an officer or other authorized employee of the institution, and if a paper purporting to be a will of the decedent or a deed to a burial plot is found in the box, to deliver the will or deed to the probate register or his or her deputy. The probate register or his or her deputy shall furnish a receipt to the institution. An item contained in the safe deposit box other than the will or deed shall not be removed from the safe deposit box. At the time of the opening of the safe deposit box, all individuals in attendance shall execute a written statement certifying whether a will or deed to a burial plot is found and that no other items are removed, which statement shall be delivered within 7 days after execution to the probate register or his or her deputy. Before the court enters the order, there shall be paid to the probate register a fee of \$10.00, which shall be credited to the general fund of the county. If the decedent's estate is administered in a probate court in the state, the party making payment of the fee may file a claim in the estate for that amount, which shall be charged as a cost of administration.

(b) The safe deposit box of an individual who is an individual or joint lessee and for whom a fiduciary was appointed may be opened by that fiduciary and its contents removed. If the safe deposit box is jointly leased, then the fiduciary may examine the safe deposit box only in the presence of an officer or other authorized employee of the safe deposit and collateral company, trust company, corporation, bank, or other institution. At the time of the opening of the safe deposit box, all individuals in attendance shall execute a written statement certifying as to what is removed from the box by the fiduciary. The fiduciary shall serve a copy of that statement on the other joint lessees within 7 days after removing the items.

(c) Notwithstanding another provision of this section, a surviving joint lessee of a joint safe deposit box has full access to the safe deposit box.

Sec. 2518. A provision in a will purporting to penalize an interested person for contesting the will or instituting other proceedings relating to the estate is unenforceable if probable cause exists for instituting proceedings.

Sec. 2519. (1) A will executed in the form prescribed by subsection (2) and otherwise in compliance with the terms of the Michigan statutory will form is a valid will. A person printing and distributing the Michigan statutory will shall print and distribute the form verbatim as it appears in subsection (2). The notice provisions shall be printed in 10-point boldfaced type.

(2) The form of the Michigan statutory will is as follows:

#### MICHIGAN STATUTORY WILL NOTICE

1. An individual age 18 or older and of sound mind may sign a will.
2. There are several kinds of wills. If you choose to complete this form, you will have a Michigan statutory will. If this will does not meet your wishes in any way, you should talk with a lawyer before choosing a Michigan statutory will.
3. Warning! It is strongly recommended that you do not add or cross out any words on this form except for filling in the blanks because all or part of this will may not be valid if you do so.
4. This will has no effect on jointly held assets, on retirement plan benefits, or on life insurance on your life if you have named a beneficiary who survives you.
5. This will is not designed to reduce estate taxes.
6. This will treats adopted children and children born outside of wedlock who would inherit if their parent died without a will the same way as children born or conceived during marriage.
7. You should keep this will in your safe deposit box or other safe place. By paying a small fee, you may file this will in your county's probate court for safekeeping. You should tell your family where the will is kept.

8. You may make and sign a new will at any time. If you marry or divorce after you sign this will, you should make and sign a new will.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. To have a Michigan statutory will, you must complete the blanks on the will form. You may do this yourself, or direct someone to do it for you. You must either sign the will or direct someone else to sign it in your name and in your presence.

2. Read the entire Michigan statutory will carefully before you begin filling in the blanks. If there is anything you do not understand, you should ask a lawyer to explain it to you.

MICHIGAN STATUTORY WILL OF \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print or type your full name)

ARTICLE 1. DECLARATIONS

This is my will and I revoke any prior wills and codicils.

I live in \_\_\_\_\_ County, Michigan.

My spouse is \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Insert spouse's name or write "none")

My children now living are:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(Insert names or write "none")

ARTICLE 2. DISPOSITION OF MY ASSETS

2.1 CASH GIFTS TO PERSONS OR CHARITIES.

(Optional)

I can leave no more than two (2) cash gifts. I make the following cash gifts to the persons or charities in the amount stated here. Any transfer tax due upon my death shall be paid from the balance of my estate and not from these gifts. Full name and address of person or charity to receive cash gift (name only 1 person or charity here):

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Insert name of person or charity)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Insert address)

AMOUNT OF GIFT (In figures): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT OF GIFT (In words): \_\_\_\_\_ Dollars

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Your signature)

Full name and address of person or charity to receive cash gift (name only 1 person or charity):

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Insert name of person or charity)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Insert address)

AMOUNT OF GIFT (In figures): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT OF GIFT (In words): \_\_\_\_\_ Dollars

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Your signature)

2.2 PERSONAL AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS.

I may leave a separate list or statement, either in my handwriting or signed by me at the end, regarding gifts of specific books, jewelry, clothing, automobiles, furniture, and other personal and household items.

I give my spouse all my books, jewelry, clothing, automobiles, furniture, and other personal and household items not included on such a separate list or statement. If I am not married at the time I sign this will or if my spouse dies before me, my personal representative shall distribute those items, as equally as possible, among my children who survive me. If no children survive me, these items shall be distributed as set forth in paragraph 2.3.

2.3 ALL OTHER ASSETS.

I give everything else I own to my spouse. If I am not married at the time I sign this will or if my spouse dies before me, I give these assets to my children and the descendants of any deceased child. If no spouse, children, or descendants of children survive me, I choose 1 of the following distribution clauses by signing my name on the line after that clause. If I sign on both lines, if I fail to sign on either line, or if I am not now married, these assets will go under distribution clause (b).

Distribution clause, if no spouse, children, or descendants of children survive me.

(Select only 1)

(a) One-half to be distributed to my heirs as if I did not have a will, and one-half to be distributed to my spouse's heirs as if my spouse had died just after me without a will.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Your signature)

(b) All to be distributed to my heirs as if I did not have a will.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Your signature)

ARTICLE 3. NOMINATIONS OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE, GUARDIAN, AND CONSERVATOR

Personal representatives, guardians, and conservators have a great deal of responsibility. The role of a personal representative is to collect your assets, pay debts and taxes from those assets, and distribute the remaining assets as directed in the will. A guardian is a person who will look after the physical well-being of a child. A conservator is a person who will manage a child's assets and make payments from those assets for the child's benefit. Select them carefully. Also, before you select them, ask them whether they are willing and able to serve.

3.1 PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE.

(Name at least 1)

I nominate \_\_\_\_\_  
(Insert name of person or eligible financial institution)

of \_\_\_\_\_ to serve as personal representative.  
(Insert address)

If my first choice does not serve, I nominate \_\_\_\_\_  
(Insert name of person or eligible financial institution)

of \_\_\_\_\_ to serve as personal representative.  
(Insert address)

3.2 GUARDIAN AND CONSERVATOR.

Your spouse may die before you. Therefore, if you have a child under age 18, name an individual as guardian of the child, and an individual or eligible financial institution as conservator of the child's assets. The guardian and the conservator may, but need not be, the same person.

If a guardian or conservator is needed for a child of mine, I nominate \_\_\_\_\_  
(Insert name of individual)

of \_\_\_\_\_ as guardian and  
(Insert address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Insert name of individual or eligible financial institution)

of \_\_\_\_\_ to serve as conservator.  
(Insert address)

If my first choice cannot serve, I nominate \_\_\_\_\_  
(Insert name of individual)

of \_\_\_\_\_ as guardian and  
(Insert address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Insert name of individual or eligible financial institution)

of \_\_\_\_\_ to serve as conservator.  
(Insert address)



3.3 BOND.

A bond is a form of insurance in case your personal representative or a conservator performs improperly and jeopardizes your assets. A bond is not required. You may choose whether you wish to require your personal representative and any conservator to serve with or without bond. Bond premiums would be paid out of your assets. (Select only 1)

(a) My personal representative and any conservator I have named shall serve with bond.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Your signature)

(b) My personal representative and any conservator I have named shall serve without bond.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Your signature)

3.4 DEFINITIONS AND ADDITIONAL CLAUSES.

Definitions and additional clauses found at the end of this form are part of this will.

I sign my name to this Michigan statutory will on \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Your signature)

NOTICE REGARDING WITNESSES

You must use 2 adults who will not receive assets under this will as witnesses. It is preferable to have 3 adult witnesses. All the witnesses must observe you sign the will, have you tell them you signed the will, or have you tell them the will was signed at your direction in your presence.

STATEMENT OF WITNESSES

We sign below as witnesses, declaring that the individual who is making this will appears to be of sound mind and appears to be making this will freely, without duress, fraud, or undue influence, and that the individual making this will acknowledges that he or she has read the will, or has had it read to him or her, and understands the contents of this will.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of witness)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City) (State) (Zip)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of witness)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City) (State) (Zip)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of witness)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City) (State) (Zip)

DEFINITIONS

The following definitions and rules of construction apply to this Michigan statutory will:

(a) "Assets" means all types of property you can own, such as real estate, stocks and bonds, bank accounts, business interests, furniture, and automobiles.

(b) "Descendants" means your children, grandchildren, and their descendants.

(c) "Descendants" or "children" includes individuals born or conceived during marriage, individuals legally adopted, and individuals born out of wedlock who would inherit if their parent died without a will.

(d) "Jointly held assets" means those assets to which ownership is transferred automatically upon the death of 1 of the owners to the remaining owner or owners.

(e) "Spouse" means your husband or wife at the time you sign this will.

(f) Whenever a distribution under a Michigan statutory will is to be made to an individual's descendants, the assets are to be divided into as many equal shares as there are then living descendants of the nearest degree of living descendants and deceased descendants of that same degree who leave living descendants. Each living descendant of the nearest degree shall receive 1 share. The remaining shares, if any, are combined and then divided in the same manner among the surviving descendants of the deceased descendants as if the surviving descendants who were allocated a share and their surviving descendants had predeceased the descendant. In this manner, all descendants who are in the same generation will take an equal share.

(g) "Heirs" means those persons who would have received your assets if you had died without a will, domiciled in Michigan, under the laws that are then in effect.

(h) "Person" includes individuals and institutions.

(i) Plural and singular words include each other, where appropriate.

(j) If a Michigan statutory will states that a person shall perform an act, the person is required to perform that act. If a Michigan statutory will states that a person may do an act, the person's decision to do or not to do the act shall be made in good faith exercise of the person's powers.

## ADDITIONAL CLAUSES

### Powers of personal representative

1. A personal representative has all powers of administration given by Michigan law to personal representatives and, to the extent funds are not needed to meet debts and expenses currently payable and are not immediately distributable, the power to invest and reinvest the estate from time to time in accordance with the Michigan prudent investor rule. In dividing and distributing the estate, the personal representative may distribute partially or totally in kind, may determine the value of distributions in kind without reference to income tax bases, and may make non-pro rata distributions.

2. The personal representative may distribute estate assets otherwise distributable to a minor beneficiary to the minor's conservator or, in amounts not exceeding \$5,000.00 per year, either to the minor, if married; to a parent or another adult with whom the minor resides and who has the care, custody, or control of the minor; or to the guardian. The personal representative is free of liability and is discharged from further accountability for distributing assets in compliance with the provisions of this paragraph.

## POWERS OF GUARDIAN AND CONSERVATOR

A guardian named in this will has the same authority with respect to the child as a parent having legal custody would have. A conservator named in this will has all of the powers conferred by law.

## PART 6

### RULES OF CONSTRUCTION APPLICABLE ONLY TO WILLS

Sec. 2601. As used in this part:

(a) "Alternative devise" means a devise that is expressly created by the will and, under the terms of the will, can take effect instead of another devise on the happening of 1 or more events, including survival of the testator or failure to survive the testator, whether an event is expressed in condition-precedent, condition-subsequent, or another form. A residuary clause constitutes an alternative devise with respect to a nonresiduary devise only if the will specifically provides that, upon lapse or failure, the nonresiduary devise or nonresiduary devises in general pass under the residuary clause.

(b) "Class member" includes, but is not limited to, an individual who fails to survive the testator but who would have taken under a devise in the form of a class gift had he or she survived the testator.

(c) "Devise" includes, but is not limited to, an alternative devise, a devise in the form of a class gift, and an exercise of a power of appointment.

(d) "Devisee" includes, but is not limited to, the following:

(i) A class member if the devise is in the form of a class gift.

(ii) The beneficiary of a trust, but not the trustee.

(iii) An individual or class member who was deceased at the time the testator executed his or her will or an individual or class member who was living at that time, but fails to survive the testator.

(iv) An appointee under a power of appointment exercised by the testator's will.

(e) "Stepchild" means a child of the surviving, deceased, or former spouse of the testator or of the donor of a power of appointment, who is not the testator's or donor's child.

(f) “Surviving devisee” or “surviving descendant” means a devisee or a descendant who neither predeceased the testator nor is considered to have predeceased the testator under section 2702.

(g) “Testator” includes the donee of a power of appointment if the power is exercised in the testator’s will.

Sec. 2602. (1) In the absence of a finding of a contrary intention, the rules of construction in this part control the construction of a will.

(2) A will may provide for the passage of all property that the testator owns at death and all property acquired by the estate after the testator’s death.

Sec. 2603. (1) If a devisee fails to survive the testator and is a grandparent, a grandparent’s descendant, or a stepchild of either the testator or the donor of a power of appointment exercised by the testator’s will, the following apply:

(a) Except as provided in subdivision (d), if the devise is not in the form of a class gift and the deceased devisee leaves surviving descendants, a substitute gift is created in the devisee’s surviving descendants. Those surviving descendants take by representation the property to which the devisee would have been entitled had the devisee survived the testator.

(b) Except as provided in subdivision (d), if the devise is in the form of a class gift, other than a devise to “issue”, “descendants”, “heirs of the body”, “heirs”, “next of kin”, “relatives”, or “family”, or to a class described by language of similar import, a substitute gift is created in the surviving descendants of a deceased devisee. The property to which the devisee would have been entitled had all class members survived the testator passes to the surviving devisees and the deceased devisees’ surviving descendants. Each surviving devisee takes the share to which he or she would have been entitled had the deceased devisees survived the testator. Each deceased devisee’s surviving descendants who are substituted for the deceased devisee take by representation the share to which the deceased devisee would have been entitled had the deceased devisee survived the testator. For the purposes of this subdivision, “deceased devisee” means a class member who fails to survive the testator and leaves 1 or more surviving descendants.

(c) For the purposes of section 2602(1), words of survivorship, such as in a devise to an individual “if he survives me” or in a devise to “my surviving children”, are not, in the absence of additional evidence, a sufficient indication of an intent contrary to the application of this section.

(d) If the will creates an alternative devise with respect to a devise for which a substitute gift is created by subdivision (a) or (b), the substitute gift is superseded by the alternative devise only if an expressly designated devisee of the alternative devise is entitled to take under the will.

(e) Unless the language creating a power of appointment expressly excludes the substitution of the appointee’s descendants for the appointee, a surviving descendant of a deceased appointee of a power of appointment can be substituted for the appointee under this section, whether or not the descendant is an object of the power.

(2) If, under subsection (1), substitute gifts are created and not superseded with respect to more than 1 devise and the devises are alternative devises, one to the other, the determination of which of the substitute gifts take effect is resolved as follows:

(a) Except as provided in subdivision (b), the devised property passes under the primary substitute gift.

(b) If there is a younger-generation devise, the devised property passes under the younger-generation substitute gift and not under the primary substitute gift.

(3) As used in this section:

(a) “Primary devise” means the devise that would have taken effect had all the deceased devisees of the alternative devises who left surviving descendants survived the testator.

(b) “Primary substitute gift” means the substitute gift created with respect to the primary devise.

(c) “Younger-generation devise” means a devise for which all of the following are true:

(i) Is to a descendant of a devisee of the primary devise.

(ii) Is an alternative devise with respect to the primary devise.

(iii) Is a devise for which a substitute gift is created.

(iv) Would have taken effect had all the deceased devisees who left surviving descendants survived the testator except the deceased devisee or devisees of the primary devise.

(d) “Younger-generation substitute gift” means the substitute gift created with respect to the younger-generation devise.

Sec. 2604. (1) Except as provided in section 2603, a devise, other than a residuary devise, that fails for any reason becomes a part of the residue.

(2) Except as provided in section 2603, if the residue is devised to 2 or more persons, the share of a residuary devisee that fails for any reason passes to the other residuary devisee or to other residuary devisees in proportion to the interest of each in the remaining part of the residue.

Sec. 2605. (1) If a testator executes a will that devises securities and the testator then owns securities that meet the description in the will, the devise includes additional securities owned by the testator at death to the extent the additional securities are acquired by the testator after the will was executed as a result of the testator's ownership of the described securities and are securities of any of the following types:

(a) Securities of the same organization acquired by reason of action initiated by the organization or any successor, related, or acquiring organization, excluding any acquired by exercise of purchase options.

(b) Securities of another organization acquired as a result of a merger, consolidation, reorganization, or other distribution by the organization or any successor, related, or acquiring organization.

(c) Securities of the same organization acquired as a result of a plan of reinvestment.

(2) Distributions in cash before death with respect to a described security are not part of the devise.

Sec. 2606. (1) A specific devisee has a right to the specifically devised property in the testator's estate at death and all of the following:

(a) Any balance of the purchase price, together with any security agreement, owing from a purchaser to the testator at death by reason of sale of the property.

(b) Any amount of a condemnation award for the taking of the property unpaid at death.

(c) Any proceeds unpaid at death on fire or casualty insurance on, or other recovery for, injury to the property.

(d) Property owned by the testator at death and acquired as a result of foreclosure, or obtained in lieu of foreclosure, of the security interest for a specifically devised obligation.

(e) Real property or tangible personal property owned by the testator at death that the testator acquired as a replacement for specifically devised real property or tangible personal property.

(f) Unless the facts and circumstances indicate that ademption of the devise was intended by the testator or ademption of the devise is consistent with the testator's manifested plan of distribution, the value of the specifically devised property to the extent the specifically devised property is not in the testator's estate at death and its value or its replacement is not covered by subdivisions (a) to (e).

(2) If an agent acting within the authority of a durable power of attorney for an incapacitated principal or a conservator sells or mortgages specifically devised property, or if a condemnation award, insurance proceeds, or recovery for injury to the property are paid to an agent acting within the authority of a durable power of attorney for an incapacitated principal or to a conservator, the specific devisee has the right to a general pecuniary devise equal to the net sale price, the amount of the unpaid loan, the condemnation award, the insurance proceeds, or the recovery.

(3) The right of a specific devisee under subsection (2) is reduced by a right the devisee has under subsection (1).

(4) For the purposes of the references in subsection (2) to a conservator, subsection (2) does not apply if after the sale, mortgage, condemnation, casualty, or recovery, it was adjudicated that the testator's disability ceased and the testator survived the adjudication by 1 year.

(5) For the purposes of the references in subsection (2) to an agent acting within the authority of a durable power of attorney for an incapacitated principal, an incapacitated principal is a principal who is an incapacitated individual, an adjudication of the individual's incapacity before death is not necessary, and the acts of an agent within the authority of a durable power of attorney are presumed to be for an incapacitated principal.

Sec. 2607. A specific devise and a transfer under an exercise of a power of appointment that is equivalent to a specific devise, including the exercise of a right to withdraw specific property, passes subject to any mortgage or other security interest existing on the date of death, without right of exoneration, regardless of a general directive in the will to pay debts.

Sec. 2608. (1) Property a testator gave in his or her lifetime to a person is treated as a satisfaction of a devise in whole or in part only if any of the following are true:

(a) The will provides for a deduction of the gift.

(b) The testator declared in a contemporaneous writing that the gift is in satisfaction of the devise or that its value is to be deducted from the value of the devise.

(c) The devisee acknowledges in writing that the gift is in satisfaction of the devise or that its value is to be deducted from the value of the devise.

(2) For purposes of partial satisfaction, property given during the testator's lifetime is valued as of the time the devisee came into possession or enjoyment of the property or at the testator's death, whichever occurs first.

(3) If the devisee fails to survive the testator, the gift is treated as a full or partial satisfaction of the devise, as appropriate, in applying sections 2603 and 2604, unless the testator's contemporaneous writing provides otherwise.

## PART 7

### RULES OF CONSTRUCTION APPLICABLE TO DONATIVE DISPOSITIONS IN WILLS AND OTHER GOVERNING INSTRUMENTS

Sec. 2701. In the absence of a finding of a contrary intention, the rules of construction in this part control the construction of a governing instrument. The rules of construction in this part apply to a governing instrument unless the application of a particular section is limited by its terms to a specific type of provision or governing instrument.

Sec. 2702. (1) For the purposes of this act, except as provided in subsection (4), an individual who is not established by clear and convincing evidence to have survived an event, including the death of another individual, by 120 hours is considered to have predeceased the event.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (4), for purposes of a provision of a governing instrument that relates to an individual surviving an event, including the death of another individual, an individual who is not established by clear and convincing evidence to have survived the event by 120 hours is considered to have predeceased the event.

(3) Except as provided in subsection (4), if it is not established by clear and convincing evidence that 1 of 2 co-owners with right of survivorship survived the other co-owner by 120 hours, 1/2 of the co-owned property passes as if 1 had survived by 120 hours and 1/2 as if the other had survived by 120 hours. If there are more than 2 co-owners and it is not established by clear and convincing evidence that at least 1 of them survived the others by 120 hours, the property passes in the proportion that 1 bears to the whole number of co-owners. For the purposes of this subsection, "co-owners with right of survivorship" includes joint tenants, tenants by the entireties, and other co-owners of property or accounts held under circumstances that entitles 1 or more to the whole of the property or account on the death of the other or others.

(4) Survival by 120 hours is not required under any of the following circumstances:

(a) The governing instrument contains language dealing explicitly with simultaneous deaths or deaths in a common disaster and that language is operable under the facts of the case.

(b) The governing instrument expressly indicates that an individual is not required to survive an event, including the death of another individual, by any specified period or expressly requires the individual to survive the event by a specified period. Survival of the event or the specified period, however, must be established by clear and convincing evidence.

(c) The imposition of a 120-hour requirement of survival would cause a nonvested property interest or a power of appointment to fail to qualify for validity under section 2(1)(a), (2)(a), or (3)(a) of the uniform statutory rule against perpetuities, 1988 PA 418, MCL 554.72, or to become invalid under section 2(1)(b), (2)(b), or (3)(b) of the uniform statutory rule against perpetuities, 1988 PA 418, MCL 554.72.

(d) The application of a 120-hour requirement of survival to multiple governing instruments would result in an unintended failure or duplication of a disposition. Survival, however, must be established by clear and convincing evidence.

Sec. 2703. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a payor or other third party is not liable for having made a payment or transferred an item of property or another benefit to a beneficiary designated in a governing instrument who, under section 2702, is not entitled to the payment or item of property, or for having taken another action in reliance on the beneficiary's apparent entitlement under the terms of the governing instrument. A payor or other third party is liable for a payment made or other action taken 3 or more business days after the payor or other third party actually receives written notice of a claimed lack of entitlement under section 2702. A payor or other third party is not obligated to inquire as to whether the 120-hour survival provision of section 2702 applies to any individual or to seek evidence regarding whether that provision applies to any individual. A recipient who incorrectly receives a payment, transfer of property, or other benefit is liable for the payment or transfer received, whether or not written notice of the claim is given.

(2) Written notice of a claimed lack of entitlement under subsection (1) must be mailed to the payor's or other third party's main office or home by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, or served upon the payor or other third party in the same manner as a summons in a civil action. Notice to a sales representative of a payor or other third party does not constitute notice to the payor or other third party.

(3) The written notice under subsection (1) must include the decedent's name, the name of the person asserting an interest, the nature of the payment, item of property, or other benefit, and a statement that the beneficiary designated

in the governing instrument did not survive the decedent by 120 hours. Notice in a form or service in a manner other than that described in this section does not impose liability on a payor or other third party for an action taken in accordance with a governing instrument.

(4) Upon receipt of written notice of a claimed lack of entitlement under section 2702, a payor or other third party may pay an amount owed to the county treasurer of the county of the court having jurisdiction of the probate proceedings relating to the decedent's estate, or if proceedings have not been commenced, to the county treasurer of the county of the decedent's residence. With a payment under this section, the payor or other third party shall file a copy of the written notice received by the payor or other third party. A payment made to the county treasurer discharges the payor or other third party from all claims for the value of amounts paid to the county treasurer.

(5) The county treasurer shall not charge a filing fee for a payment to the county treasurer under this section. The county treasurer shall hold the money in accordance with section 3917 and, upon the court's determination under section 2702, shall disburse the money in accordance with the determination.

(6) The provision for payment to the county treasurer under this section does not preclude a payor or other third party from taking another action authorized by law or the governing instrument.

Sec. 2704. (1) Section 2702 does not obligate a person who purchases property for value and without notice, or who receives a payment or other item of property in partial or full satisfaction of a legally enforceable obligation, to return the payment, item of property, or benefit and does not make such a person liable for the amount of the payment or the value of the item of property or benefit. However, a person who, not for value, receives a payment, item of property, or another benefit to which the person is not entitled under section 2702 is obligated to return the payment, item of property, or benefit or is personally liable for the amount of the payment, or the value of the item of property or benefit, to the person who is entitled to it under section 2702.

(2) If section 2702 or any part of that section is preempted by federal law with respect to a payment, an item of property, or another benefit covered by section 2702, a person who, not for value, receives the payment, item of property, or another benefit to which the person is not entitled under section 2702 is obligated to return the payment, item of property, or benefit or is personally liable for the amount of the payment, or the value of the item of property or benefit, to the person who would have been entitled to it if section 2702 or part of that section were not preempted.

Sec. 2705. A governing instrument's meaning and legal effect are determined by the local law of the state selected in the governing instrument, unless the application of that law is contrary to the provisions relating to the elective share described in part 2 of this article, the provisions relating to exempt property and allowances described in part 4 of this article, or another public policy of this state otherwise applicable to the disposition.

Sec. 2706. If a governing instrument creating a power of appointment expressly requires that the power be exercised by a reference, an express reference, or a specific reference to the power or its source, it is presumed that the donor's intention, in requiring that the donee exercise the power by making reference to the particular power or to the creating instrument, was to prevent an inadvertent exercise of the power.

Sec. 2707. (1) An adopted individual or an individual born out of wedlock, and his or her respective descendants if appropriate to the class, are included in class gifts and other terms of relationship in accordance with the rules for intestate succession. Terms of relationship that do not differentiate relationships by blood from those by affinity, such as "uncles", "aunts", "nieces", or "nephews", are construed to exclude relatives by affinity. Terms of relationship that do not differentiate relationships by the half blood from those by the whole blood, such as "brothers", "sisters", "nieces", or "nephews", are construed to include both types of relationships.

(2) In addition to the requirements of subsection (1), in construing a dispositive provision of a transferor who is not a natural parent, an individual born to the natural parent is not considered the child of that parent unless the individual lived while a minor as a regular member of the household of that natural parent or of that natural parent's parent, brother, sister, spouse, or surviving spouse.

(3) In addition to the requirements of subsection (1), in construing a dispositive provision of a transferor who is not an adopting parent, an adopted individual is not considered the child of the adopting parent unless the adopted individual lived while a minor, either before or after the adoption, as a regular member of the household of the adopting parent.

Sec. 2708. As used in this section and sections 2709 to 2712:

(a) "Alternative beneficiary designation" means a beneficiary designation that is expressly created by the governing instrument and, under the terms of the governing instrument, can take effect instead of another beneficiary designation on the happening of 1 or more events, including survival of the decedent or failure to survive the decedent, whether an event is expressed in condition-precedent, condition-subsequent, or another form.

(b) "Beneficiary" means the beneficiary of a beneficiary designation under which the beneficiary must survive the decedent. Beneficiary includes a class member if the beneficiary designation is in the form of a class gift; an individual or class member who was deceased at the time the beneficiary designation was executed; and an individual or class member who was then living but who failed to survive the decedent. Beneficiary excludes a joint tenant of a joint tenancy with the right of survivorship and a party to a joint and survivorship account.

(c) "Beneficiary designation" includes an alternative beneficiary designation and a beneficiary designation in the form of a class gift.

(d) "Class member" includes an individual who fails to survive the decedent, but who would have taken under a beneficiary designation in the form of a class gift had he or she survived the decedent.

(e) "Stepchild" means a child of the decedent's surviving, deceased, or former spouse, and not of the decedent.

(f) "Surviving beneficiary" or "surviving descendant" means a beneficiary or a descendant who did not predecease the decedent and is not considered to have predeceased the decedent under section 2702.

Sec. 2709. If a beneficiary fails to survive the decedent and is a grandparent, a grandparent's descendant, or the decedent's stepchild, the following apply:

(a) Except as provided in subdivision (d), if the beneficiary designation is not in the form of a class gift and the deceased beneficiary leaves surviving descendants, a substitute gift is created in the beneficiary's surviving descendants. They take by representation the property to which the beneficiary would have been entitled had the beneficiary survived the decedent.

(b) Except as provided in subdivision (d), if the beneficiary designation is in the form of a class gift, other than a beneficiary designation to "issue", "descendants", "heirs of the body", "heirs", "next of kin", "relatives", or "family" or a class described by language of similar import, a substitute gift is created in the surviving descendants of each deceased beneficiary. The property to which the beneficiaries would have been entitled had all of them survived the decedent passes to the surviving beneficiaries and the surviving descendants of the deceased beneficiaries. Each surviving beneficiary takes the share to which he or she would have been entitled had the deceased beneficiaries survived the decedent. Each deceased beneficiary's surviving descendants who are substituted for the deceased beneficiary take by representation the share to which the deceased beneficiary would have been entitled had the deceased beneficiary survived the decedent. For the purposes of this subdivision, "deceased beneficiary" means a class member who failed to survive the decedent and left 1 or more surviving descendants.

(c) For the purposes of section 2701, words of survivorship, such as in a beneficiary designation to an individual "if he survives me" or in a beneficiary designation to "my surviving children", are not, in the absence of additional evidence, a sufficient indication of an intent contrary to the application of this section.

(d) If a governing instrument creates an alternative beneficiary designation with respect to a beneficiary designation for which a substitute gift is created by subdivision (a) or (b), the substitute gift is superseded by the alternative beneficiary designation only if an expressly designated beneficiary of the alternative beneficiary designation is entitled to take.

Sec. 2710. (1) If, under section 2709, substitute gifts are created and not superseded with respect to more than 1 beneficiary designation and the beneficiary designations are alternative beneficiary designations, one to the other, the determination of which of the substitute gifts takes effect is resolved as follows:

(a) Except as provided in subdivision (b), the property passes under the primary substitute gift.

(b) If there is a younger-generation beneficiary designation, the property passes under the younger-generation substitute gift and not under the primary substitute gift.

(2) As used in this section:

(a) "Primary beneficiary designation" means the beneficiary designation that would have taken effect had all the deceased beneficiaries of the alternative beneficiary designations who left surviving descendants survived the decedent.

(b) "Primary substitute gift" means the substitute gift created with respect to the primary beneficiary designation.

(c) "Younger-generation beneficiary designation" means a beneficiary designation for which all of the following are true:

(i) Is to a descendant of a beneficiary of the primary beneficiary designation.

(ii) Is an alternative beneficiary designation with respect to the primary beneficiary designation.

(iii) Is a beneficiary designation for which a substitute gift is created.

(iv) Would have taken effect had all the deceased beneficiaries who left surviving descendants survived the decedent except the deceased beneficiary or beneficiaries of the primary beneficiary designation.

(d) "Younger-generation substitute gift" means the substitute gift created with respect to the younger-generation beneficiary designation.

Sec. 2711. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a payor or other third party is not liable for making a payment under the terms of a beneficiary designation. Payment made before the actual receipt of a written notice of a claim to a substitute gift discharges the payor or other third party, but not the recipient, from a claim for the amount paid. A payor or other third party is liable for a payment made 3 or more business days after the payor or other third party actually receives written notice of the claim. A payor or other third party is not obligated to inquire as to whether a substitute gift exists under sections 2709 and 2710 or to seek evidence regarding such a gift. A recipient who incorrectly receives a payment is liable for the payment received, whether or not written notice of the claim is given.

(2) A written notice of a substitute claim must be mailed to the payor's or other third party's main office or home by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, or served upon the payor or other third party in the same manner as a summons in a civil action. Notice to a sales representative of a payor or other third party does not constitute notice to the payor or other third party.

(3) The written notice under subsection (1) must include the decedent's name, the name of the person asserting an interest, the nature of the payment, item of property, or other benefit, and a statement that a claim to a substitute gift is being made under sections 2709 and 2710. Notice in a form or service in a manner other than that described in this section does not impose liability on a payor or other third party for an action taken in accordance with a governing instrument.

(4) Upon receipt of a written notice of the claim, a payor or other third party may pay any amount the payor or other third party owes to the county treasurer of the county of the court having jurisdiction of the probate proceedings relating to the decedent's estate or, if no proceedings have been commenced, to the county treasurer of the county of the decedent's residence. With a payment under this section, the payor or other third party shall file a copy of the written notice received by the payor or other third party. A payment made to the county treasurer discharges the payor or other third party from all claims for the amount paid.

(5) The county treasurer shall not charge a filing fee for a payment to the county treasurer under this section. The county treasurer shall hold the money in accordance with section 3917 and, upon the court's determination under sections 2709 and 2710, shall disburse the money in accordance with the determination.

(6) The provision for payment to the county treasurer under this section does not preclude a payor or other third party from taking another action authorized by law or the governing instrument.

Sec. 2712. (1) A person who purchases property for value and without notice, or who receives a payment or other item of property in partial or full satisfaction of a legally enforceable obligation, is not obligated to return the payment, item of property, or benefit and is not liable for the amount of the payment or the value of the item of property or benefit. However, a person who, not for value, receives a payment, item of property, or another benefit to which the person is not entitled under sections 2709 and 2710 is obligated to return the payment, item of property, or benefit, or is personally liable for the amount of the payment or the value of the item of property or benefit, to the person who is entitled to it under sections 2709 and 2710.

(2) If this section and sections 2709 and 2710 are, or any part of these sections is, preempted by federal law with respect to a payment, an item of property, or another benefit covered by these sections, a person who, not for value, receives the payment, item of property, or another benefit to which the person is entitled under those sections is obligated to return the payment, item of property, or benefit, or is personally liable for the amount of the payment or the value of the item of property or benefit, to the person who would have been entitled to it if these sections or a part of these sections were not preempted.

Sec. 2713. As used in this section and sections 2714 to 2716:

(a) "Alternative future interest" means an expressly created future interest that can take effect in possession or enjoyment instead of another future interest on the happening of 1 or more events, including survival of an event or failure to survive an event, whether an event is expressed in condition-precedent, condition-subsequent, or another form. A residuary clause in a will does not create an alternative future interest with respect to a future interest created in a nonresiduary devise in the will, whether or not the will specifically provides that a lapsed or failed devise is to pass under the residuary clause.

(b) "Beneficiary" means the beneficiary of a future interest and includes a class member if the future interest is in the form of a class gift.

(c) "Class member" includes, but is not limited to, an individual who failed to survive the distribution date but who would have taken under a future interest in the form of a class gift had he or she survived the distribution date.

(d) "Distribution date" means, with respect to a future interest, the time when the future interest takes effect in possession or enjoyment. The distribution date does not need to occur at the beginning or end of a calendar day, but can occur at a time during the course of a day.

(e) "Future interest" includes, but is not limited to, an alternative future interest and a future interest in the form of a class gift.



(f) “Future interest under the terms of a trust” means a future interest that is created by a transfer creating a trust or to an existing trust or by an exercise of a power of appointment to an existing trust, directing the continuance of an existing trust, designating a beneficiary of an existing trust, or creating a trust.

(g) “Surviving beneficiary” or “surviving descendant” means a beneficiary or a descendant who does not predecease the distribution date and who is not considered to have predeceased the distribution date under section 2702.

Sec. 2714. A future interest under the terms of a trust is contingent on the beneficiary surviving the distribution date. If a beneficiary of a future interest under the terms of a trust fails to survive the distribution date, the following apply:

(a) Except as provided in subdivision (d), if the future interest is not in the form of a class gift and the deceased beneficiary leaves surviving descendants, a substitute gift is created in the beneficiary’s surviving descendants. The surviving descendants take by representation the property to which the beneficiary would have been entitled had the beneficiary survived the distribution date.

(b) Except as provided in subdivision (d), if the future interest is in the form of a class gift, other than a future interest to “issue”, “descendants”, “heirs of the body”, “heirs”, “next of kin”, “relatives”, or “family” or a class described by language of similar import, a substitute gift is created in the surviving descendants of a deceased beneficiary. The property to which the beneficiaries would have been entitled had all of them survived the distribution date passes to the surviving beneficiaries and the surviving descendants of the deceased beneficiaries. Each surviving beneficiary takes the share to which he or she would have been entitled had the deceased beneficiaries survived the distribution date. Each deceased beneficiary’s surviving descendants who are substituted for the deceased beneficiary take by representation the share to which the deceased beneficiary would have been entitled had the deceased beneficiary survived the distribution date. For the purposes of this subdivision, “deceased beneficiary” means a class member who fails to survive the distribution date and leaves 1 or more surviving descendants.

(c) For the purposes of section 2701, words of survivorship attached to a future interest are not, in the absence of additional evidence, a sufficient indication of an intent contrary to the application of this section. Words of survivorship include words of survivorship that relate to the distribution date or to an earlier or an unspecified time, whether those words of survivorship are expressed in condition-precedent, condition-subsequent, or another form.

(d) If a governing instrument creates an alternative future interest with respect to a future interest for which a substitute gift is created by subdivision (a) or (b), the substitute gift is superseded by the alternative future interest only if an expressly designated beneficiary of the alternative future interest is entitled to take in possession or enjoyment.

Sec. 2715. (1) If, under section 2714, substitute gifts are created and not superseded with respect to more than 1 future interest and the future interests are alternative future interests, one to the other, the determination of which of the substitute gifts takes effect is resolved as follows:

(a) Except as provided in subdivision (b), the property passes under the primary substitute gift.

(b) If there is a younger-generation future interest, the property passes under the younger-generation substitute gift and not under the primary substitute gift.

(2) As used in this section:

(a) “Primary future interest” means the future interest that would have taken effect had all the deceased beneficiaries of the alternative future interests who left surviving descendants survived the distribution date.

(b) “Primary substitute gift” means the substitute gift created with respect to the primary future interest.

(c) “Younger-generation future interest” means a future interest for which all of the following are true:

(i) Is to a descendant of a beneficiary of the primary future interest.

(ii) Is an alternative future interest with respect to the primary future interest.

(iii) Is a future interest for which a substitute gift is created.

(iv) Would have taken effect had all the deceased beneficiaries who left surviving descendants survived the distribution date except the deceased beneficiary or beneficiaries of the primary future interest.

(d) “Younger-generation substitute gift” means the substitute gift created with respect to the younger-generation future interest.

Sec. 2716. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), if, after the application of sections 2714 and 2715, there is no surviving taker, the property passes in the following order:

(a) If the trust is created in a nonresiduary devise in the transferor’s will or in a codicil to the transferor’s will, the property passes under the residuary clause in the transferor’s will. For purposes of this section, the residuary clause is treated as creating a future interest under the terms of a trust.

(b) If a taker is not produced by the application of subdivision (a), the property passes to the transferor's heirs under section 2720.

(2) If, after the application of sections 2714 and 2715, there is no surviving taker and if the future interest was created by the exercise of a power of appointment, the following apply:

(a) The property passes under the donor's gift-in-default clause, if any, which clause is treated as creating a future interest under the terms of a trust.

(b) If a taker is not produced by the application of subdivision (a), the property passes as provided in subsection (1). For purposes of subsection (1), "transferor" means the donor if the power was a nongeneral power and means the donee if the power was a general power.

Sec. 2717. If a class gift in favor of "descendants", "issue", or "heirs of the body" does not specify the manner in which the property is to be distributed among the class members, the property is distributed among the class members who are living when the interest is to take effect in possession or enjoyment in the shares each class member would receive under the applicable law of intestate succession if the designated ancestor had died intestate at the time of distribution owning the subject matter of the class gift.

Sec. 2718. (1) If an applicable statute or a governing instrument calls for the property to be distributed "by representation" or "per capita at each generation", the property is divided into as many equal shares as there are surviving descendants in the generation nearest to the designated ancestor that contains 1 or more surviving descendants and deceased descendants in the same generation who left surviving descendants, if any. Each surviving descendant in the nearest generation is allocated 1 share. The remaining shares, if any, are combined and then divided in the same manner among the surviving descendants of the deceased descendants as if the surviving descendants of the deceased descendants who were allocated a share and their surviving descendants had predeceased the distribution date. This rule of construction applies to documents originally created after the effective date of this act, and to all instruments amended after the effective date of this act, that use the phrase "by representation" or "per capita at each generation". If an amendment uses either phrase, the rule of this section applies to the entire instrument.

(2) If a governing instrument calls for property to be distributed "per stirpes", the property is divided into as many equal shares as there are surviving children of the designated ancestor and deceased children who left surviving descendants. Each surviving child, if any, is allocated 1 share. The share of each deceased child with surviving descendants is divided in the same manner, with subdivision repeating at each succeeding generation until the property is fully allocated among surviving descendants.

(3) For the purposes of subsections (1) and (2), a deceased individual who left no surviving descendant is disregarded, and an individual who leaves a surviving ancestor who is a descendant of the designated ancestor is not entitled to a share.

(4) As used in this section:

(a) "Deceased child" or "deceased descendant" means a child or descendant who either predeceases the distribution date or is considered to predecease the distribution date under section 2702.

(b) "Distribution date" means, with respect to an interest, the time when the interest is to take effect in possession or enjoyment. The distribution date does not need to occur at the beginning or end of a calendar day, but can occur at a time during the course of a day.

(c) "Surviving ancestor", "surviving child", or "surviving descendant" means an ancestor, a child, or a descendant who does not predecease the distribution date and is not considered to have predeceased the distribution date under section 2702.

Sec. 2719. The doctrine of worthier title is abolished as a rule of law and as a rule of construction. Language in a governing instrument describing the beneficiaries of a disposition as the transferor's "heirs", "heirs at law", "next of kin", "distributees", "relatives", or "family", or language of similar import, does not create or presumptively create a reversionary interest in the transferor.

Sec. 2720. If an applicable statute or a governing instrument calls for a present or future distribution to or creates a present or future interest in a designated individual's "heirs", "heirs at law", "next of kin", "relatives", or "family" or language of similar import, the property passes to those persons, including the state, in the shares that would succeed to the designated individual's intestate estate under the intestate succession law of the designated individual's domicile if the designated individual died when the disposition is to take effect in possession or enjoyment. If the designated individual's surviving spouse is living, but is remarried at the time the disposition is to take effect in possession or enjoyment, the surviving spouse is not an heir of the designated individual.

Sec. 2721. A provision contained in a governing instrument that makes reference to a “minor”, “age of majority”, or a similar phrase differentiating between an individual’s majority and minority status shall be construed to refer to the legal age of majority in effect at the time the governing instrument was executed.

Sec. 2722. (1) Subject to subsection (3), if a trust is for a specific lawful noncharitable purpose or for lawful noncharitable purposes to be selected by the trustee, and if there is no definite or definitely ascertainable beneficiary designated, the trust may be performed by the trustee for 21 years, but no longer, whether or not the terms of the trust contemplate a longer duration.

(2) Subject to this subsection and subsection (3), a trust for the care of a designated domestic or pet animal is valid. The trust terminates when no living animal is covered by the trust. A governing instrument shall be liberally construed to bring the transfer within this subsection, to presume against the merely precatory or honorary nature of the disposition, and to carry out the general intent of the transferor. Extrinsic evidence is admissible in determining the transferor’s intent.

(3) In addition to the provisions of subsection (1) or (2), a trust covered by either of those subsections is subject to the following provisions:

(a) Except as expressly provided otherwise in the trust instrument, no portion of the principal or income may be converted to the use of the trustee or to a use other than for the trust’s purposes or for the benefit of a covered animal.

(b) Upon termination, the trustee shall transfer the unexpended trust property in the following order:

(i) As directed in the trust instrument.

(ii) If the trust was created in a nonresiduary clause in the transferor’s will or in a codicil to the transferor’s will, under the residuary clause in the transferor’s will.

(iii) If no taker is produced by the application of subparagraph (i) or (ii), to the transferor’s heirs under section 2720.

(c) For the purposes of sections 2714 to 2716, the residuary clause is treated as creating a future interest under the terms of a trust.

(d) The intended use of the principal or income can be enforced by an individual designated for that purpose in the trust instrument or, if none, by an individual appointed by a court upon petition to it by an individual.

(e) Except as ordered by the court or required by the trust instrument, no filing, report, registration, periodic accounting, separate maintenance of funds, appointment, or fee is required by reason of the existence of the fiduciary relationship of the trustee.

(f) The court may reduce the amount of the property transferred if it determines that that amount substantially exceeds the amount required for the intended use. The amount of the reduction, if any, passes as unexpended trust property under subdivision (b).

(g) If a trustee is not designated or no designated trustee is willing or able to serve, the court shall name a trustee. The court may order the transfer of the property to another trustee if the transfer is necessary to ensure that the intended use is carried out, and if a successor trustee is not designated in the trust instrument or if no designated successor trustee agrees to serve or is able to serve. The court may also make other orders and determinations as are advisable to carry out the intent of the transferor and the purpose of this section.

(h) The trust is not subject to the uniform statutory rule against perpetuities, 1988 PA 418, MCL 554.71 to 554.78.

## PART 8

### GENERAL PROVISIONS CONCERNING PROBATE AND NONPROBATE TRANSFERS

Sec. 2801. (1) An individual who is divorced from the decedent or whose marriage to the decedent has been annulled is not a surviving spouse unless, by virtue of a subsequent marriage, he or she is married to the decedent at the time of death. A decree of separation that does not terminate the status of husband and wife is not a divorce for purposes of this section.

(2) For purposes of parts 1 to 4 of this article and of section 3203, a surviving spouse does not include any of the following:

(a) An individual who obtains or consents to a final decree or judgment of divorce from the decedent or an annulment of their marriage, which decree or judgment is not recognized as valid in this state, unless they subsequently participate in a marriage ceremony purporting to marry each to the other or live together as husband and wife.

(b) An individual who, following an invalid decree or judgment of divorce or annulment obtained by the decedent, participates in a marriage ceremony with a third individual.

(c) An individual who was a party to a valid proceeding concluded by an order purporting to terminate all marital property rights.

(d) An individual who, at the time of the decedent's death, is living in a bigamous relationship with another individual.

(e) An individual who did any of the following for 1 year or more before the death of the deceased person:

(i) Was willfully absent from the decedent spouse.

(ii) Deserted the decedent spouse.

(iii) Willfully neglected or refused to provide support for the decedent spouse if required to do so by law.

Sec. 2802. As used in this section and sections 2803 and 2804:

(a) "Disposition or appointment of property" includes, but is not limited to, a transfer of an item of property or another benefit to a beneficiary designated in a governing instrument.

(b) "Governing instrument" means a governing instrument executed by the decedent.

(c) "Revocable" means, with respect to a disposition, appointment, provision, or nomination, one under which the decedent, at the time of or immediately before death, was alone empowered, by law or under the governing instrument, to cancel the designation in favor of the killer, whether or not the decedent was then empowered to designate himself or herself in place of his or her killer and whether or not the decedent then had the capacity to exercise the power.

Sec. 2803. (1) An individual who feloniously and intentionally kills the decedent forfeits all benefits under this article with respect to the decedent's estate, including an intestate share, an elective share, an omitted spouse's or child's share, a homestead allowance, a family allowance, and exempt property. If the decedent died intestate, the decedent's intestate estate passes as if the killer disclaimed his or her intestate share.

(2) The felonious and intentional killing of the decedent does all of the following:

(a) Revokes all of the following that are revocable:

(i) Disposition or appointment of property made by the decedent to the killer in a governing instrument.

(ii) Provision in a governing instrument conferring a general or nongeneral power of appointment on the killer.

(iii) Nomination of the killer in a governing instrument, nominating or appointing the killer to serve in a fiduciary or representative capacity, including a personal representative, executor, trustee, or agent.

(b) Severs the interests of the decedent and killer in property held by them at the time of the killing as joint tenants with the right of survivorship, transforming the interests of the decedent and killer into tenancies in common.

(3) A severance under subsection (2)(b) does not affect a third party interest in property acquired for value and in good faith reliance on an apparent title by survivorship in the killer unless a writing declaring the severance has been noted, registered, filed, or recorded in records appropriate to the kind and location of the property that are relied upon, in the ordinary course of transactions involving that type of property, as evidence of ownership.

(4) A provision of a governing instrument is given effect as if the killer disclaimed all provisions revoked by this section or, in the case of a revoked nomination in a fiduciary or representative capacity, as if the killer predeceased the decedent.

(5) A killer's wrongful acquisition of property or interest not covered by this section shall be treated in accordance with the principle that a killer cannot profit from his or her wrong.

(6) After all right to appeal has been exhausted, a judgment of conviction establishing criminal accountability for the felonious and intentional killing of the decedent conclusively establishes the convicted individual as the decedent's killer for purposes of this section. In the absence of a conviction, the court, upon the petition of an interested person, shall determine whether, under the preponderance of evidence standard, the individual would be found criminally accountable for the felonious and intentional killing of the decedent. If the court determines that, under that standard, the individual would be found criminally accountable for the felonious and intentional killing of the decedent, the determination conclusively establishes that individual as the decedent's killer for purposes of this section.

Sec. 2804. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a payor or other third party is not liable for having made a payment or transferred an item of property or another benefit to a beneficiary designated in a governing instrument affected by an intentional and felonious killing, or for having taken another action in reliance on the validity of the governing instrument, upon request and satisfactory proof of the decedent's death. A payor or other third party is liable for a payment made or other action taken 3 or more business days after the payor or other third party actually receives written notice of a claimed forfeiture or revocation under section 2803. A payor or other third party is not obligated to determine whether the decedent was the victim of felonious killing or to seek evidence relating to such a killing even if the circumstances of the decedent's death are suspicious as to the beneficiary's participation in such a killing. A recipient who incorrectly receives a payment, transfer of property, or other benefit is liable for the payment or transfer received, whether or not written notice of the claim is given.

(2) Written notice of a claimed forfeiture or revocation under subsection (1) must be mailed to the payor's or other third party's main office or home by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, or served upon the payor or other third party in the same manner as a summons in a civil action. Notice to a sales representative of a payor or other third party does not constitute notice to the payor or other third party.

(3) The written notice under subsection (1) must include the decedent's name, the name of the person asserting an interest, the nature of the payment, item of property, or other benefit, and a statement that a claim of forfeiture or revocation is being made under section 2803. Notice in a form or service in a manner other than that described in this section does not impose liability on a payor or other third party for an action taken in accordance with a governing instrument.

(4) Upon receipt of written notice of a claimed forfeiture or revocation under this section, a payor or other third party may pay an amount owed to the county treasurer of the county of the court having jurisdiction of the probate proceedings relating to the decedent's estate or, if no proceedings have been commenced, to the county treasurer of the county of the decedent's residence. With a payment under this section, the payor or other third party shall file a copy of the written notice received by the payor or other third party. A payment made to the county treasurer discharges the payor or other third party from a claim for the value of an amount paid to the county treasurer.

(5) The county treasurer shall not charge a filing fee for a payment to the county treasurer under this section. The county treasurer shall hold the money in accordance with section 3917 and, upon the court's determination under section 2803, shall disburse the money in accordance with the determination.

(6) The provision for payment to the county treasurer under this section does not preclude a payor or other third party from taking another action authorized by law or the governing instrument.

Sec. 2805. (1) Section 2803 does not obligate a person who purchases property for value and without notice, or who receives a payment or other item of property in partial or full satisfaction of a legally enforceable obligation, to return the payment, item of property, or benefit, and such a person is not liable under section 2803 for the amount of the payment or the value of the item of property or benefit. However, a person who, not for value, receives a payment, an item of property, or another benefit to which the person is not entitled under section 2803 is obligated to return the payment, item of property, or benefit, or is personally liable for the amount of the payment or the value of the item of property or benefit, to the person who is entitled to it under section 2803.

(2) If this section and sections 2803 and 2804 are, or a part of those sections is, preempted by federal law with respect to a payment, an item of property, or another benefit covered by these sections, a person who, not for value, receives the payment, item of property, or another benefit to which the person is not entitled under these sections is obligated to return the payment, item of property, or benefit, or is personally liable for the amount of the payment or the value of the item of the property or benefit, to the person who would have been entitled to it if these sections or a part of these sections were not preempted.

Sec. 2806. As used in this section and sections 2807 to 2809:

(a) "Disposition or appointment of property" includes, but is not limited to, a transfer of an item of property or another benefit to a beneficiary designated in a governing instrument.

(b) "Divorce or annulment" means a divorce or annulment, or a dissolution or declaration of invalidity of a marriage, that would exclude the spouse as a surviving spouse within the meaning of section 2801. A decree of separation that does not terminate the status of husband and wife is not a divorce for purposes of this section and sections 2807 to 2809.

(c) "Divorced individual" includes, but is not limited to, an individual whose marriage has been annulled.

(d) "Governing instrument" means a governing instrument executed by a divorced individual before the divorce from, or annulment of his or her marriage to, his or her former spouse.

(e) "Relative of the divorced individual's former spouse" means an individual who is related to the divorced individual's former spouse by blood, adoption, or affinity and who, after the divorce or annulment, is not related to the divorced individual by blood, adoption, or affinity.

(f) "Revocable" means, with respect to a disposition, appointment, provision, or nomination, one under which the divorced individual, at the time of the divorce or annulment, was alone empowered, by law or under the governing instrument, to cancel the designation in favor of his or her former spouse or former spouse's relative, whether or not the divorced individual was then empowered to designate himself or herself in place of his or her former spouse or in place of his or her former spouse's relative and whether or not the divorced individual then had the capacity to exercise the power.

Sec. 2807. (1) Except as provided by the express terms of a governing instrument, court order, or contract relating to the division of the marital estate made between the divorced individuals before or after the marriage, divorce, or annulment, the divorce or annulment of a marriage does all of the following:

(a) Revokes all of the following that are revocable:

(i) A disposition or appointment of property made by a divorced individual to his or her former spouse in a governing instrument and a disposition or appointment created by law or in a governing instrument to a relative of the divorced individual's former spouse.

(ii) A provision in a governing instrument conferring a general or nongeneral power of appointment on the divorced individual's former spouse or on a relative of the divorced individual's former spouse.

(iii) A nomination in a governing instrument, nominating a divorced individual's former spouse or a relative of the divorced individual's former spouse to serve in a fiduciary or representative capacity, including, but not limited to, a personal representative, executor, trustee, conservator, agent, or guardian.

(b) Severs the interests of the former spouses in property held by them at the time of the divorce or annulment as joint tenants with the right of survivorship or as community property with the right of survivorship, transforming the interests of the former spouses into tenancies in common.

(2) A severance under subsection (1)(b) does not affect a third-party interest in property acquired for value and in good faith reliance on an apparent title by survivorship in the survivor of the former spouses unless a writing declaring the severance has been noted, registered, filed, or recorded in records appropriate to the kind and location of the property that are relied upon, in the ordinary course of transactions involving that type of property, as evidence of ownership.

(3) Each provision of a governing instrument is given effect as if the former spouse and relatives of the former spouse disclaimed all provisions revoked by this section or, in the case of a revoked nomination in a fiduciary or representative capacity, as if the former spouse and relatives of the former spouse died immediately before the divorce or annulment.

(4) Each provision revoked solely by this section is revived by the divorced individual's remarriage to the former spouse or by a nullification of the divorce or annulment.

(5) No change of circumstances other than as described in this section and in sections 2803 to 2805, 2808, and 2809 affects a revocation.

Sec. 2808. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a payor or other third party is not liable for having made a payment or transferred an item of property or another benefit to a beneficiary designated in a governing instrument affected by a divorce, annulment, or remarriage, or for having taken another action in reliance on the validity of the governing instrument. A payor or other third party is liable for a payment made or other action taken 3 or more business days after the payor or other third party actually receives written notice of a claimed revocation or severance under section 2807. A payor or other third party is not obligated to inquire as to the continued marital relationship between the decedent and a beneficiary described in this subsection or to seek evidence about such a relationship. A recipient who incorrectly receives a payment, transfer of property, or other benefit is liable for the payment or transfer received, whether or not written notice of the claim is given.

(2) Written notice of the divorce, annulment, or remarriage under subsection (1) must be mailed to the payor's or other third party's main office or home by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, or served upon the payor or other third party in the same manner as a summons in a civil action. Notice to a sales representative of a payor or other third party does not constitute notice to the payor or other third party.

(3) The written notice under subsection (1) must include the decedent's name, the name of the person asserting an interest, the nature of the payment, item of property, or other benefit, and a statement that a divorce, annulment, or remarriage of the decedent and the designated individual occurred. Notice in a form or service in a manner other than that described in this section does not impose liability on a payor or other third party for an action taken in accordance with a governing instrument.

(4) Upon receipt of written notice of the divorce, annulment, or remarriage, a payor or other third party may pay an amount owed to the county treasurer of the county of the court having jurisdiction of the probate proceedings relating to the decedent's estate or, if no proceedings have been commenced, to the county treasurer of the county of the decedent's residence. With a payment under this section, the payor or other third party shall file a copy of the written notice received by the payor or other third party. A payment made to the county treasurer discharges the payor or other third party from a claim for the value of an amount paid to the county treasurer.

(5) The county treasurer shall not charge a filing fee for a payment to the county treasurer under this section. The county treasurer shall hold the money in accordance with section 3917 and, upon the court's determination under section 2807, shall disburse the money in accordance with the determination.

(6) The provision for payment to the county treasurer under this section does not preclude a payor or other third party from taking another action authorized by law or the governing instrument.

Sec. 2809. (1) Section 2807 does not obligate an individual who purchases property from a former spouse, a relative of a former spouse, or another person for value and without notice, or who receives from a former spouse, a relative of a former spouse, or another person a payment or other item of property in partial or full satisfaction of a legally

enforceable obligation, to return the payment, item of property, or benefit, and such a person is not liable under section 2807 for the amount of the payment or the value of the item of property or benefit. However, a former spouse, relative of a former spouse, or other person who, not for value, received a payment, item of property, or another benefit to which that person is not entitled under section 2807 is obligated to return the payment, item of property, or benefit, or is personally liable for the amount of the payment or the value of the item of property or benefit, to the person who is entitled to it under section 2807.

(2) If this section and sections 2807 and 2808 are, or a part of 1 of those sections is, preempted by federal law with respect to a payment, an item of property, or another benefit covered by these sections, a former spouse, relative of the former spouse, or another person who, not for value, receives a payment, an item of property, or another benefit to which that person is not entitled under these sections is obligated to return the payment, item of property, or benefit, or is personally liable for the amount of the payment or the value of the item of property or benefit, to the person who would have been entitled to it if these sections or a part of 1 of these sections were not preempted.

## PART 9

### DISCLAIMERS

Sec. 2901. (1) This part shall be known and may be cited as the “disclaimer of property interests law”.

(2) As used in this part:

(a) “Agent” means an agent or attorney in fact acting under a written power of attorney and within the scope of his, her, or its authority.

(b) “Disclaimable interest” includes, but is not limited to, property, the right to receive or control property, and a power of appointment. Disclaimable interest does not include an interest retained by or conferred upon the disclaimant by the disclaimant at the creation of the interest. For purposes of this definition, the survivorship interest in joint property is not considered to be an interest retained or conferred upon the disclaimant even if the disclaimant created the joint property.

(c) “Effective date of a governing instrument other than a will or testamentary trust” means the date on which a property right vests or a contract right arises, even though either right is subject to divestment.

(d) “Fiduciary” includes, but is not limited to, an agent, a conservator, a guardian if no conservator has been appointed, a guardian ad litem, a personal representative, a trustee, a probate court acting through a protective order under this act, and a temporary, successor, or foreign fiduciary.

(e) “Fiduciary power” means a management power relating to the administration or management of assets similar to those powers granted to a personal representative in section 3715 and a trustee in section 7401, and granted by law to a fiduciary or conferred upon a fiduciary in a governing instrument.

(f) “Governing instrument” means a deed, assignment, bill of sale, will, trust, beneficiary designation, contract, instrument creating or exercising a power of appointment or a power of attorney, or another instrument under which property devolves, a property right is created, or a contract right is created. Governing instrument includes the provable terms of an oral contract or arrangement under which property devolves or a property right is created.

(g) “Joint property” means property that is owned by 2 or more persons with rights of survivorship, and includes a tenancy by the entireties in real property, a tenancy in personal property as provided in section 1 of 1927 PA 212, MCL 557.151, a joint tenancy, a joint tenancy with rights of survivorship, and a joint life estate with contingent remainder in fee. For purposes of this part, joint property is considered to consist of a present interest and a future interest. The future interest is the right of survivorship.

(h) “Person” includes an entity and an individual, but does not include a fiduciary, an estate, or a trust.

(i) “Property” means anything that may be the subject of ownership. Property includes both real and personal property and an interest in property, including a present interest; a future interest; a legal interest; an equitable interest; an interest acquired by testate succession, by intestate or other statutory succession, by succession to a disclaimed interest, or by lapse or release of a power of appointment; or an interest that may be otherwise acquired under a governing instrument.

(j) “Trust” means a fiduciary relationship with respect to property that subjects the person who holds title to the property to equitable duties to deal with the property for the benefit of another person, which fiduciary relationship arises as a result of a manifestation of an intention to create it. Trust includes an express trust, private or charitable, with additions to the trust, whether created by will or other than by will, and includes a trust created by statute, judgment, or decree under which the trust is to be administered in the manner of an express trust. Trust does not include a constructive trust or a resulting trust.

Sec. 2902. (1) A person, or a fiduciary representing a person to whom a disclaimable interest devolves, may disclaim a disclaimable interest in whole or in part. A trustee, with respect to the trust as a whole or with respect to a separate

trust that is or will be established under the governing instrument, may disclaim a disclaimable interest, in whole or in part, but only to the extent that the governing instrument expressly gives the trustee the right to disclaim.

(2) A disclaimer may be of a fractional or percentage share or of a limited interest or estate. A provision in a power of attorney granting the agent the authority to do whatever the principal could do, or words of similar effect, includes the authority to disclaim, unless the authority to disclaim is specifically excluded or limited. Except for a trust or a power of attorney, the right to disclaim a disclaimable interest exists notwithstanding a spendthrift provision or a restriction or limitation on the right to disclaim contained in the governing instrument.

(3) A fiduciary may disclaim a fiduciary power. The right to disclaim a fiduciary power exists notwithstanding a restriction or limitation on the right to disclaim contained in the governing instrument.

Sec. 2903. (1) A disclaimer is not valid unless it complies with all of the following:

- (a) Is in writing.
- (b) Declares the disclaimer.
- (c) Describes the disclaimed interest.
- (d) Is signed by the disclaimant.
- (e) Is delivered as provided in sections 2904, 2905, and 2906.

(2) If a disclaimable interest is disclaimed by a fiduciary on behalf of the person to whom the disclaimable interest devolves, the disclaimer must be signed by all incumbent fiduciaries. Unless the governing instrument requires otherwise, a disclaimer of a disclaimable interest by a trustee may be signed by less than all incumbent trustees. A disclaimer of a fiduciary power by a fiduciary may be signed by less than all incumbent fiduciaries.

Sec. 2904. (1) Except as provided in section 2905, if a disclaimed interest arises under a will or testamentary trust, or by the laws of intestacy, the disclaimer must be delivered after the death of the owner of the property and before any event described in section 2910. If a disclaimed interest arises under a will or by the laws of intestacy, the disclaimer must be delivered to the personal representative of the deceased owner's estate. If a disclaimed interest arises under a testamentary trust, the disclaimer must be delivered to the trustee of the testamentary trust or, if a trustee has not been appointed, to the personal representative of the deceased owner's estate.

(2) Except as provided in section 2905, if a disclaimed interest arises under a governing instrument other than a will or testamentary trust, the disclaimer must be delivered after the effective date of the governing instrument and before any event described in section 2910. A disclaimer under this subsection must be delivered in 1 of the following manners:

- (a) If the disclaimer is made by a beneficiary of a trust, the disclaimer must be delivered to the trustee.
- (b) If the disclaimer is made by a donee with respect to a gift from a living donor, the disclaimer must be delivered to the donor of the gift.
- (c) If the disclaimer is made by a beneficiary under a beneficiary designation, the disclaimer must be delivered to the payor.
- (d) If the disclaimer is made by a trustee with respect to a separate trust that is or will be established under the governing instrument, the disclaimer must be delivered to another incumbent trustee of that trust who has not disclaimed or to all the beneficiaries of that trust who are then living and whose whereabouts are known or reasonably ascertainable.

Sec. 2905. (1) A disclaimed interest that is subject to, or arises under, an exercise, release, or lapse of a power of appointment, must comply with the following:

- (a) A disclaimer by an appointee must be delivered to the donee, to the personal representative of the donee's estate, or to the fiduciary under the instrument that created the power of appointment. The disclaimer by the appointee must be delivered after the exercise of the power of appointment by the donee and before any event described in section 2910.
- (b) A disclaimer by a taker in default must be delivered to the donee, to the fiduciary under the instrument that created the power of appointment, or to 1 of the persons entitled to the property in the event of a disclaimer. The disclaimer by a taker in default may be delivered before or after the lapse or release of the power of appointment, and must be delivered before any event described in section 2910.

(2) If the disclaimed interest arises out of joint property, the disclaimer must be delivered after creation of the joint ownership and before any event described in section 2910, to the person who created the joint property, to a remaining owner who has not disclaimed, or to the person or fiduciary entitled to the disclaimed interest in the event of a disclaimer. The barring of the right to disclaim a present interest under section 2910 does not bar the right to disclaim the future interest.

(3) A fiduciary power may be disclaimed at any time, before or after exercise of the power. The disclaimer must be delivered to the person who established the instrument that gave rise to the power or to 1 of the following:



(a) If the fiduciary is a personal representative, to all the devisees under the will who are then living and whose whereabouts are known or reasonably ascertainable.

(b) If the fiduciary is a trustee, to another incumbent trustee who has not disclaimed the power or to all the beneficiaries of the trust who are then living and whose whereabouts are known or reasonably ascertainable.

(c) If the fiduciary is a guardian or conservator, to the interested persons.

(d) If the fiduciary is an agent, to the principal or, if the principal is legally incapacitated, to the principal's presumptive heirs at law.

Sec. 2906. (1) A disclaimer must be delivered in 1 of the following manners:

(a) By personally handing it to the person to whom it is to be delivered or to a fiduciary representing that person.

(b) By enclosing it in a sealed envelope with first-class postage fully prepaid, addressed to the person to whom it is to be delivered or to a fiduciary representing that person, and depositing the envelope and its contents in the United States mail.

(c) By another means that is reasonably likely to accomplish delivery to the person who is to receive the disclaimer or to a fiduciary representing that person.

(2) If delivery is to be made to a fiduciary, the following apply:

(a) If a fiduciary is not currently serving, the delivery of the disclaimer is made by filing the disclaimer with the probate court that has jurisdiction to entertain proceedings to appoint or qualify the fiduciary.

(b) If the fiduciary cannot be located, the delivery of the disclaimer is made by filing the disclaimer with the probate court that has jurisdiction over the fiduciary.

(3) A copy of a disclaimer may be filed in a probate court where proceedings are pending concerning the disclaimed interest or in a probate court that would have jurisdiction if proceedings were commenced. If the disclaimed interest pertains to real property, a copy of the disclaimer may be recorded in the office of the register of deeds of the county in which the property is located.

Sec. 2907. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section and section 2908, if a disclaimed interest arises under a will or testamentary trust, or by the laws of intestacy, and the decedent has not provided for another disposition of that interest if it is disclaimed or for another disposition of disclaimed or failed interests in general, the disclaimed interest devolves as if the disclaimant had predeceased the decedent. However, if by law, or under the will or testamentary trust, the descendants of the disclaimant would take the disclaimant's share by representation if the disclaimant predeceased the decedent, then the disclaimed interest passes by representation to the descendants of the disclaimant who survive the decedent.

(2) A future interest that takes effect in possession or enjoyment upon the termination of the disclaimed interest takes effect as if the disclaimant had predeceased the decedent. A future interest that is held by the disclaimant and that takes effect at a time certain is not accelerated and takes effect at the time certain.

(3) Except as otherwise provided in this section and section 2908, if the disclaimed interest arises under a governing instrument other than a will or testamentary trust, and the governing instrument does not provide for another disposition of that interest if it is disclaimed or for another disposition of disclaimed or failed interests in general, the disclaimed interest devolves as if the disclaimant had died before the time when the interest was entitled to take effect in possession or enjoyment. However, if by law or under the governing instrument the descendants of the disclaimant would take the disclaimant's share by representation if the disclaimant predeceased the effective date of the instrument, then the disclaimed interest passes by representation to the descendants of the disclaimant who survive the effective date of the instrument.

(4) A future interest that takes effect in possession or enjoyment at or after the termination of the disclaimed interest takes effect as if the disclaimant had died before the time when the interest was entitled to take effect in possession or enjoyment. A future interest that is held by the disclaimant and that takes effect at a time certain is not accelerated and takes effect at the time certain.

Sec. 2908. (1) If the disclaimed interest arises out of joint property created by a governing instrument, testamentary or nontestamentary, the following apply:

(a) If the disclaimant is the only living owner, the disclaimed interest devolves to the estate of the last to die of the other joint owners.

(b) If the disclaimant is not the only living owner, the disclaimed interest devolves to the other living joint owners equally or, if there is only 1 living owner, all to the other living owner.

(2) If the donee of a power of appointment disclaims the power of appointment, the property that is subject to the power of appointment devolves as follows:

(a) If the power of appointment arises out of a will or testamentary instrument, as if the donee died before the decedent.

(b) If the power of appointment arises out of a governing instrument other than a will or testamentary trust, as if the disclaimant died before the effective date of the governing instrument.

(3) If all incumbent trustees disclaim a disclaimable interest, and the governing instrument does not provide for another disposition of the disclaimed interest if it is disclaimed or for another disposition of disclaimed or failed interests in general, then the disclaimed interest devolves as if the trust with respect to which the disclaimer was made never existed. If less than all incumbent trustees disclaim a disclaimable interest and the governing instrument does not provide for another disposition of the disclaimed interest under those circumstances, then the trustee who disclaims is treated as never having had any interest in or power over the disclaimed interest.

(4) If a fiduciary disclaims a fiduciary power, the fiduciary power ceases to exist as of the effective date of the disclaimer. A disclaimer of a fiduciary power by 1 of multiple incumbent fiduciaries is binding only on the fiduciary who disclaims and is not binding on the other incumbent fiduciaries or on successor fiduciaries. A disclaimer of a fiduciary power by all incumbent fiduciaries is binding on all successor fiduciaries, unless the disclaimer states otherwise.

Sec. 2909. (1) A disclaimer, or a written waiver of the right to disclaim, is binding upon the disclaimant or person waiving the right to disclaim, and all persons claiming through or under him or her.

(2) A disclaimer acts as a nonacceptance of the disclaimed interest, rather than as a transfer of the disclaimed interest. The disclaimant is treated as never having received the disclaimed interest.

Sec. 2910. (1) The right to disclaim property is barred by any of the following events that occur after the event giving rise to the right to disclaim and before the disclaimer is perfected:

(a) An assignment, conveyance, encumbrance, pledge, or transfer of the property, or a contract for such a transaction.

(b) A written waiver of the right to disclaim.

(c) An acceptance of the disclaimable interest or a benefit under the disclaimable interest after actual knowledge that a property right has been conferred.

(d) A sale of the property under judicial sale.

(e) The expiration of the permitted applicable perpetuities period.

(2) The right to disclaim is barred to the extent provided by other applicable law. A partial bar does not preclude the disclaimant from disclaiming all or any part of the balance of the property if the disclaimant has received a portion of the property and there still remains an interest that the disclaimant is yet to receive. An act that bars the right to disclaim a present interest in joint property does not bar the right to disclaim a future interest in joint property.

(3) A spouse who is the beneficiary of a property interest for which a marital deduction is claimed under the internal revenue code of 1986 cannot disclaim his or her interest after 9 months after the date on which the governing instrument containing the transfer is irrevocable.

Sec. 2911. The common law right of disclaimer or renunciation is abolished. This part does not abridge the right of a person to waive, release, disclaim, or renounce property or an interest in property under another statute.

Sec. 2912. An interest in property that exists on the effective date of this act as to which, if a present interest, the time for delivering a disclaimer under this part has not expired or, if a future interest, the interest has not become indefeasibly vested or the taker finally ascertained, may be disclaimed after the effective date of this act and before any event described in section 2910.

## PART 10

### INTERNATIONAL WILLS

Sec. 2951. As used in this part:

(a) "International will" means a will executed in conformity with this part.

(b) "Authorized individual" means an individual who by section 2959 or by the laws of the United States, including members of the diplomatic and consular service of the United States designated by foreign service regulations, is empowered to supervise the execution of international wills.

Sec. 2952. (1) If a will is made in the form of an international will that complies with the requirements of this part, the will is valid in regard to its form irrespective of the particular place where the will is made, of the location of assets, or of the testator's nationality, domicile, or residence.

- (2) A will's invalidity as an international will does not affect its formal validity as a will of another kind.
- (3) This part does not apply to the form of a testamentary disposition made by 2 or more individuals in 1 instrument.

Sec. 2953. To comply with this part as a valid international will, a will shall meet all of the following requirements regarding form and procedure:

- (a) The will shall be made in writing, but does not need to be written by the testator personally. The will may be written in any language and may be written by hand or by any other means.
- (b) The testator shall declare in the presence of 2 witnesses and an authorized individual that the document is the testator's will and that he or she knows its contents. The testator need not inform the witnesses or the authorized person of the will's contents.
- (c) In the witnesses' and the authorized individual's presence, the testator shall sign the will or, if the testator has previously signed the will, shall acknowledge his or her signature.
- (d) If the testator is unable to sign the international will, the absence of the testator's signature does not affect the will's validity if the testator indicates the reason for the inability and the authorized individual makes note of the reason on the will. In such a case, it is permissible, but not required, for another individual present, including a witness or the authorized individual, to sign the testator's name at the testator's direction, which act the authorized individual shall also note on the will.
- (e) The witnesses and the authorized individual shall there and then attest the will by signing in the presence of the testator.

Sec. 2954. (1) To further assure an international will's acceptance, in addition to the section 2953 requirements, all of the following are recommended regarding form and procedure:

- (a) The testator's, witnesses', and authorized individual's signatures should be placed at the end of the will. If the will consists of several sheets, the testator should sign each sheet. If the testator is unable to sign, the individual signing on the testator's behalf should sign each sheet or, if there is no such individual, the authorized individual should sign each sheet. In addition, each sheet should be consecutively numbered.
- (b) The will's date is the date of its signature by the authorized individual. The authorized individual should note that date at the end of the will.
- (c) The authorized individual should ask the testator whether he or she wishes to make a declaration concerning the will's safekeeping. If so and at the testator's express request, the place where the testator intends to have the will kept should be mentioned in the certificate provided for in section 2955.

- (2) A will executed in compliance with section 2953 is not invalid merely because it does not comply with this section.

Sec. 2955. The authorized individual shall attach to the will a certificate signed by the authorized individual establishing that the will complies with the requirements of this part for valid execution of an international will. The authorized individual shall keep a copy of the certificate and deliver another to the testator. The certificate must be in substantially the following form, except the provisions of the form that are optional provisions need only be included if the circumstances of the will render them applicable:

CERTIFICATE  
(Convention of October 26, 1973)

- 1. I, \_\_\_\_\_, a person authorized to act in connection with international wills  
(Name, address and capacity)
- 2. Certify that on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date) (Place)
- 3. (Testator) \_\_\_\_\_ in my presence and that of the witnesses  
(Name, address, date and place of birth)
- 4. (a) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name, address, date and place of birth)
- (b) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name, address, date and place of birth)

has declared that the attached document is his (or her) will and that he (or she) knows the contents thereof.

5. I furthermore certify that:

- 6. (a) In my presence and in that of the witnesses (1) the testator has signed the will or has acknowledged his (or her) signature previously affixed. \* following a declaration of the testator stating that he (or she) (2) was unable to sign

his (or her) will for the following reason \_\_\_\_\_, I have mentioned this declaration on the will \* and the signature has been affixed by \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name and address)

- 7. (b) The witnesses and I have signed the will;
- 8. \*(c) Each page of the will has been signed by \_\_\_\_\_ and numbered;
- 9. (d) I have satisfied myself as to the identity of the testator and of the witnesses as designated above;
- 10. (e) The witnesses have met the conditions requisite to act as such according to the law under which I am acting;
- 11. \*(f) The testator has requested me to include the following statement concerning the safekeeping of his (or her) will:

- 12. PLACE OF EXECUTION
- 13. DATE
- 14. SIGNATURE and, if necessary, SEAL

\* to be completed if appropriate

Sec. 2956. In the absence of evidence to the contrary, the authorized individual's certificate is conclusive of an international will's validity under this part. The absence or irregularity of a certificate does not affect the validity of a will under this part.

Sec. 2957. An international will is subject to the ordinary rules of revocation of wills.

Sec. 2958. Sections 2951 to 2957 derive from "Annex to Convention of October 26, 1973, Providing a Uniform Law on the Form of an International Will". In interpreting and applying this part, regard shall be had to its international origin and to the need for uniformity in its interpretation.

Sec. 2959. An individual who is admitted to practice law before the courts of this state and who is in good standing as an active law practitioner of this state is an authorized individual empowered to supervise the execution of an international will.

### ARTICLE III PROBATE OF WILLS AND ADMINISTRATION

#### PART 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 3101. An individual's power to leave property by will, and the rights of creditors, devisees, and heirs to his or her property, are subject to the restrictions and limitations contained in this act to facilitate the prompt settlement of estates. Upon an individual's death, the decedent's property devolves to the persons to whom the property is devised by the decedent's last will or to those indicated as substitutes for them in cases involving lapse, disclaimer, or other circumstances affecting devolution of a testate estate, or in the absence of testamentary disposition, to the decedent's heirs or to those indicated as substitutes for them in cases involving disclaimer or other circumstances affecting devolution of an intestate estate, subject to homestead allowance, family allowance, and exempt property, to rights of creditors, to the surviving spouse's elective share, and to administration.

Sec. 3102. To be effective to prove the transfer of property or to nominate a personal representative, a will must be declared valid by a register's order of informal probate or by a court's adjudication of probate.

Sec. 3103. Except as otherwise provided in article IV, to acquire the powers and undertake the duties and liabilities of a decedent's personal representative, a person must be appointed by the register or by court order, must qualify, and must be issued letters. The issuance of letters commences an estate's administration.

Sec. 3104. (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (2), a proceeding to enforce a claim against a decedent's estate or the decedent's successors shall not be revived or commenced before the appointment of a personal representative. After the appointment and until distribution, a proceeding or action to enforce a claim against the estate is governed by the procedure prescribed by this article. After distribution, a creditor whose claim has not been barred may recover from the distributees as provided in section 3955 or from a former personal representative individually liable as provided in section 3956.

(2) This act does not apply to a proceeding by a secured creditor of the decedent to enforce the creditor's right to the creditor's security except as provided in part 8 of article III and part 5 of article VII.

Sec. 3105. A person interested in a decedent's estate may apply to the register for a determination in the informal proceedings provided in this article and may petition the court for orders in formal proceedings within the court's jurisdiction.

Sec. 3106. In a proceeding within the court's jurisdiction in which notice is required by this act or by court rule, and in a proceeding to construe a probated will or determine heirs that concerns an estate that has not been opened for administration, an interested person may be bound by court order with respect to property in, or subject to the laws of, this state by notice in conformity with section 1401. An order is binding on all who are given notice of the proceeding, even if fewer than all interested persons are notified.

Sec. 3107. (1) Unless a proceeding involves supervised administration as described in part 5 of this article, the following apply:

- (a) Each proceeding before the court or register is independent of any other proceeding involving the same estate.
  - (b) A petition for a formal court order may combine various requests for relief in a single proceeding if the order sought may be a final order and may be granted without delay.
- (2) Except as required in this article for another proceeding, the following apply:
- (a) A petition is not defective because it fails to embrace all matters that might then be the subject of a final order.
  - (b) A proceeding for probate of a will or an adjudication of no will may be combined with a proceeding for appointment of a personal representative.
  - (c) A proceeding for appointment of a personal representative is concluded by an order making or declining the appointment.

Sec. 3108. A statute of limitations running on a cause of action belonging to a decedent, which action was not barred as of the date of the decedent's death, does not apply to bar a cause of action surviving the decedent's death sooner than 1 year after death. A cause of action that, but for this section, would have been barred less than 1 year after the decedent's death is barred after 1 year unless tolled.

## PART 2

### VENUE FOR PROBATE AND ADMINISTRATION, PRIORITY TO ADMINISTER, AND DEMAND FOR NOTICE

Sec. 3201. (1) Venue for the first informal or formal testacy or appointment proceeding after a decedent's death is 1 of the following:

- (a) The county where the decedent was domiciled at the time of death.
  - (b) If the decedent was not domiciled in this state, in a county where property of the decedent was located at the time of death.
- (2) Venue for a subsequent proceeding that is within the court's exclusive jurisdiction is in the place where the initial proceeding occurred, unless the initial proceeding has been transferred as provided in subsection (3), in section 856 of the revised judicature act of 1961, MCL 600.856, or by supreme court rule.
- (3) If the first proceeding described in subsection (1) was informal, on application of an interested person and after notice to the proponent in the first proceeding, the court, upon finding that venue is elsewhere, may transfer the proceeding and the file to the other court.
- (4) On motion by a party or on the court's own initiative, a proceeding's venue may be changed to another county by court order for the convenience of the parties and witnesses, for the attorneys' convenience, or if an impartial trial cannot be had in the county where the action is pending.
- (5) For the purpose of aiding determinations concerning location of property that may be relevant in cases involving nondomiciliaries, other than a debt evidenced by investment or commercial paper or other instrument in favor of a nondomiciliary, a debt is located where the debtor resides or, if the debtor is a person other than an individual, at the place where the debtor has its principal office. Commercial paper, investment paper, and other instruments are located where the instrument is. An interest in property held in trust is located where the trustee may be sued.

Sec. 3202. If conflicting claims as to the decedent's domicile are made in a formal testacy or appointment proceeding commenced in this state and in a testacy or appointment proceeding after notice pending at the same time in another state, the court of this state shall stay, dismiss, or permit suitable amendment in the proceeding in this state unless it

is determined that this state's proceeding was commenced before the proceeding elsewhere. The determination of domicile in the proceeding first commenced is determinative in this state's proceeding.

Sec. 3203. (1) For either formal or informal proceedings, subject to subsection (2), persons who are not disqualified have priority for appointment as personal representative in the following order:

(a) The person with priority as determined by a probated will including a person nominated by a power conferred in a will.

(b) The decedent's surviving spouse if the spouse is a devisee of the decedent.

(c) Other devisees of the decedent.

(d) The decedent's surviving spouse.

(e) Other heirs of the decedent.

(f) After 42 days after the decedent's death, the nominee of a creditor if the court finds the nominee suitable.

(g) The state or county public administrator if any of the following apply:

(i) No interested person applied or petitioned for appointment of a personal representative within 42 days after the decedent's death.

(ii) The decedent died apparently leaving no known heirs.

(iii) There is no spouse, heir, or beneficiary under a will who is a United States resident and is entitled to a distributive share in the decedent's estate.

(2) An objection to the appointment of a personal representative may be made only in a formal proceeding. If an objection is made, the priorities prescribed by subsection (1) apply except in either of the following circumstances:

(a) If the estate appears to be more than adequate to meet exemptions and costs of administration but inadequate to discharge anticipated unsecured claims, on petition of creditors, the court may appoint any qualified person.

(b) If a devisee or heir who appears to have a substantial interest in the estate objects to the appointment of a person whose priority is not determined by will, the court may appoint a person who is acceptable to the devisees and heirs whose interests in the estate appear to be worth in total more than 1/2 of the probable distributable value or, if no person is acceptable to these devisees and heirs, any suitable person.

(3) A person entitled to letters under subsection (1)(b) to (e) may nominate a qualified person to act as personal representative. A person may renounce his or her right to nominate or to an appointment by filing an appropriate writing with the court. If 2 or more persons share a priority, those of them who do not renounce shall concur in nominating another to act for them or in applying for appointment.

Sec. 3204. (1) A conservator of a protected individual's estate or, if there is no conservator, a guardian of a minor or incapacitated individual may exercise the same right to nominate, to object to another's appointment, or to participate in determining the preference of a majority in interest of the devisees and heirs that the protected individual or ward would have if qualified for appointment.

(2) A person who does not have priority, including priority resulting from renunciation or nomination determined under this section or section 3203, shall be appointed only in a formal proceeding. Before appointing a person without priority, the court shall determine that persons having priority have been notified of the proceedings and have failed to request appointment or to nominate another person for appointment, and that administration is necessary.

(3) A person is not qualified to serve as a personal representative if the person is either under the age of 18 or is a person whom the court finds unsuitable in formal proceedings.

(4) A personal representative appointed by a court of the decedent's domicile has priority over all other persons except if the decedent's will nominates different persons to be personal representatives in this state and in the state of domicile. The domiciliary personal representative may nominate another person, who has the same priority as the domiciliary personal representative.

(5) This section and section 3203 govern priority for appointment of a successor personal representative, but do not apply to the selection of a special personal representative.

Sec. 3205. A person who wants notice of any order or filing pertaining to a decedent's estate in which the person has a financial or property interest may file a demand for notice with the court at any time after the decedent's death stating the decedent's name, the nature of the person's interest in the estate, and the address of the person or the person's attorney. If a proceeding is not pending at the time a demand is filed under this section, the person filing the demand must pay the fee required to commence a proceeding. The person filing a demand shall mail a copy of the demand to the decedent's attorney, if known, to the personal representative if one has been appointed, and to the personal representative's attorney. After filing the demand, the person is an interested person entitled to notice as provided in section 1401 and the other provisions of this act.

PART 3

INFORMAL PROBATE AND APPOINTMENT PROCEEDINGS

Sec. 3301. (1) An application for informal probate or informal appointment shall be made by an interested person and directed to the register. The applicant shall swear that the application is accurate and complete to the best of the applicant's knowledge and belief as to all of the following information:

(a) In an application for informal probate of a will or for informal appointment of a personal representative, other than a special or successor representative, all of the following:

(i) A statement of the applicant's interest.

(ii) The decedent's name, date of death, and age; the decedent's county and state of domicile at the time of death; and the names and addresses of the spouse, children, devisees, and heirs with the ages of any who are minors so far as known or ascertainable with reasonable diligence by the applicant.

(iii) If the decedent was not domiciled in the state at the time of the decedent's death, a statement showing venue.

(iv) A statement identifying and indicating the address of a personal representative of the decedent appointed in this state or elsewhere whose appointment has not been terminated.

(b) In an application for informal probate of a will, in addition to the statements and information required by subdivision (a), all of the following:

(i) That the original of the decedent's last will is in the court's possession or accompanies the application, or that an authenticated copy of a will probated in another jurisdiction accompanies the application.

(ii) That, to the best of the applicant's knowledge, the will was validly executed.

(iii) That, after the exercise of reasonable diligence, the applicant is unaware of an instrument revoking the will and that the applicant believes that the instrument that is the subject of the application is the decedent's last will.

(c) In an application for informal appointment of a personal representative to administer an estate under a will, all of the following:

(i) A description of the will by date of execution.

(ii) The time and place of probate or the pending application for probate.

(iii) A statement adopting the statements in the application or petition for probate.

(iv) The name, address, and priority for appointment of the person whose appointment is sought.

(d) In an application for informal appointment of a personal representative in intestacy, in addition to the statements and information required by subdivision (a), all of the following:

(i) That, after the exercise of reasonable diligence, the applicant is unaware of any unrevoked testamentary instrument relating to property located in this state under section 1301, or a statement why such an instrument of which the applicant is aware is not being probated.

(ii) The priority of the person whose appointment is sought and the names of any other persons having a prior or equal right to the appointment under section 3203.

(e) In an application for appointment of a personal representative to succeed a personal representative appointed under a different testacy status, all of the following:

(i) A reference to the order in the most recent testacy proceeding.

(ii) The name and address of the person whose appointment is sought and of the person whose appointment will be terminated if the application is granted.

(iii) A description of the applicant's priority.

(f) In an application for appointment of a personal representative to succeed a personal representative who tenders a resignation as provided in section 3610 or whose appointment is terminated by death or removal, all of the following:

(i) A statement adopting the statements in the application or petition that led to the appointment of the person being succeeded, except as specifically changed or corrected.

(ii) The name and address of the person who seeks appointment as successor.

(iii) A description of the applicant's priority.

(2) By swearing to an application for informal probate or informal appointment, the applicant submits personally to the jurisdiction of the court in any proceeding for relief from fraud relating to the application or for perjury that may be instituted against the applicant.

Sec. 3302. Upon receipt of an application requesting informal probate of a will and after making the findings required by section 3303, the register shall issue a written statement of informal probate. Informal probate is conclusive as to all

persons until superseded by an order in a formal testacy proceeding. A defect in an application or procedure relating to the application that leads to informal probate of a will does not render the probate void.

Sec. 3303. (1) In an informal proceeding for original probate of a will, the register shall determine whether all of the following are true:

(a) The application is complete.

(b) The applicant has made oath or affirmation that the statements contained in the application are true to the best of the applicant's knowledge and belief.

(c) The applicant appears from the application to be an interested person.

(d) On the basis of the statements in the application, venue is proper.

(e) An original, properly executed, and apparently unrevoked will is in the register's possession.

(f) That the application is not within section 3304.

(2) The register shall deny the application if the application indicates that a personal representative has been appointed in another county of this state or, except as provided in subsection (4), if it appears that this or another will of the decedent has been the subject of a previous probate order.

(3) A will that appears to have the required signatures and that contains an attestation clause showing that requirements of execution under section 2502 or 2506 have been met shall be probated without further proof. In other cases, the register may assume execution if the will appears to have been properly executed, or the register may accept a sworn statement of a person having knowledge of the circumstances of execution, whether or not the person was a witness to the will.

(4) Informal probate of a will that was previously probated elsewhere may be granted at any time upon written application by an interested person, together with deposit of an authenticated copy of the will and of the statement probating it from the office or court where the will was first probated.

(5) A will from a place that does not provide for probate of a will after death and that is not eligible for probate under subsection (1) may be probated in this state upon receipt by the register of a properly authenticated copy of the will and a properly authenticated certificate of its legal custodian that the copy filed is a true copy and that the will has become operative under the law of the other place.

Sec. 3304. The register shall deny an application for informal probate if the probate relates to 1 or more of a known series of testamentary instruments, not including a will and 1 or more codicils to that will, the latest of which instruments does not expressly revoke the earlier.

Sec. 3305. If the register is not satisfied that a will is entitled to be probated in informal proceedings because of failure to meet the requirements of section 3303 or 3304 or for another reason, the register may deny the application. A register's denial of informal probate is not an adjudication and does not preclude formal probate proceedings. If the application is denied, the register shall clearly state the reason for denial.

Sec. 3306. (1) Within 28 days after an informal probate is granted, the applicant shall give written information of the probate to the heirs, devisees, a person who demands it under section 3205, and other interested persons. The applicant also shall give information of the probate to the attorney general, public administration division, if the devisees under the will would not be entitled to share in the estate but for the terms of the will and the decedent died without leaving any known heirs.

(2) The information required by subsection (1) must include the applicant's name and address, the name and location of the court granting the informal probate, and the date of the probate. The information must be delivered or sent by ordinary mail to each person entitled to notice whose address is reasonably available to the applicant. There is no duty to give information as required by this section if a personal representative is appointed who is required to give the written information required by section 3705. An applicant's failure to give information as required by this section is a breach of the applicant's duty to a person entitled to notice, but does not affect the validity of the probate.

Sec. 3307. (1) Upon receipt of an application for informal appointment of a personal representative, other than a special personal representative as provided in section 3614, and after making the determinations required by section 3308, the register shall appoint the person whose appointment is sought subject to qualification and acceptance. If the decedent was a nonresident, the register shall delay the order of appointment until 28 days after the death unless the personal representative appointed at the decedent's domicile is the applicant or unless the decedent's will directs that the estate be subject to the laws of this state.

(2) The personal representative's status and the powers and duties pertaining to the office are fully established by informal appointment. An appointment, and the office of personal representative created by the appointment, is subject to termination as provided in sections 3608 to 3612, but is not subject to retroactive vacation.



Sec. 3308. (1) In informal appointment proceedings, the register shall determine whether all of the following are true:

- (a) The application for the personal representative's informal appointment is complete.
- (b) The applicant has made oath or affirmation that the statements contained in the application are true to the best of the applicant's knowledge and belief.
- (c) The applicant appears from the application to be an interested person.
- (d) On the basis of the statements in the application, venue is proper.
- (e) A will to which the requested appointment relates has been formally or informally probated. This subdivision does not apply to the appointment of a special personal representative.
- (f) From the statements in the application, the person whose appointment is sought has priority to the appointment or the requirements of section 3310 have been satisfied.

(2) Unless section 3612 controls, the register shall deny the application if it indicates any of the following:

- (a) That a personal representative who has not filed a written statement of resignation as provided in section 3610 has been appointed in this or another county of this state.
- (b) That, unless the applicant is the domiciliary personal representative or his or her nominee, the decedent was not domiciled in this state and that a personal representative whose appointment has not been terminated has been appointed by a court in the state of domicile.
- (c) That the other requirements of this section are not met.

Sec. 3309. If the register is not satisfied that a requested informal appointment of a personal representative should be made because of failure to meet the requirements of section 3307 or 3308, or for another reason, the register may deny the application. A register's denial of informal appointment is not an adjudication and does not preclude appointment in formal proceedings. If the application is denied, the register shall clearly state the reason for denial.

Sec. 3310. The applicant shall give notice as described by section 1401 of the applicant's intention to seek an appointment informally to each person having a prior or equal right to an appointment not waived in writing and filed with the court.

Sec. 3311. If an application for informal appointment indicates the existence of a possible unrevoked testamentary instrument that may relate to property subject to the laws of this state and that is not filed for probate in this court, the register shall deny the application.

#### PART 4

#### FORMAL TESTACY AND APPOINTMENT PROCEEDINGS

Sec. 3401. (1) A formal testacy proceeding is litigation to determine whether a decedent left a valid will. An interested person may commence a formal testacy proceeding by filing 1 of the following:

- (a) A petition described in section 3402(1) in which the petitioner requests that after notice and hearing, the court enter an order probating a will.
- (b) A petition to set aside a will's informal probate or to prevent a will's informal probate that is the subject of a pending application.
- (c) A petition in accordance with section 3402(2) for an order that the decedent died intestate.

(2) A petitioner may seek formal probate of a will without regard to whether the same or a conflicting will has been informally probated. A formal testacy proceeding may, but need not, involve a request for appointment of a personal representative.

(3) During the pendency of a formal testacy proceeding, the register shall not act upon an application for informal probate of a will of the decedent or an application for informal appointment of a personal representative of the decedent.

(4) Unless a petition in a formal testacy proceeding also requests confirmation of the previous informal appointment, after receipt of notice of the commencement of a formal probate proceeding, a previously appointed personal representative shall refrain from exercising the power to make any further distribution of the estate during the pendency of the formal proceeding. A petitioner who seeks the appointment of a different personal representative in a formal proceeding may also request an order restraining the acting personal representative from exercising that office's powers and may request the appointment of a special personal representative. In the absence of a request under this subsection or if the request is denied, the commencement of a formal proceeding has no effect on the powers and duties of a previously appointed personal representative other than those relating to distribution.

Sec. 3402. (1) A petition for formal probate of a will or for adjudication of intestacy with or without request for appointment of a personal representative must be directed to the court, must request a judicial order after notice and hearing, and must contain the statements required by this section. A petition for formal probate of a will must include all of the following:

(a) A request for an order as to the testacy of the decedent in relation to a particular instrument that may or may not have been informally probated and a request for an order determining the decedent's heirs.

(b) The statements required for an informal application prescribed by section 3301(1)(a) and (b)(*ii*) and (*iii*).

(c) A statement as to whether the original of the decedent's last will is in the court's possession or accompanies the petition. If the original will is not in the court's possession or neither the original will nor an authenticated copy of a will probated in another jurisdiction accompanies the petition, the petition must also state the will's contents and shall indicate that the will is lost, destroyed, or otherwise unavailable.

(2) A petition for adjudication of intestacy and appointment of a personal representative in intestacy must include all of the following:

(a) A request for a judicial finding and order that the decedent left no will and determining the heirs.

(b) The statements required by section 3301(1)(a) and (d).

(c) A statement indicating whether supervised administration is sought. A petition under this subsection may request an order determining intestacy and heirs without requesting the appointment of a personal representative, in which case, the statements required by section 3301(1)(d)(*ii*) may be omitted.

Sec. 3403. (1) Upon commencement of a formal testacy proceeding, the court shall fix a time and place of hearing. The petitioner shall give notice in the manner prescribed by section 1401 to each of the following persons:

(a) The decedent's heirs.

(b) The devisees and personal representatives named in a will that is being, or has been, probated or offered for informal or formal probate in the county, or that is known by the petitioner to have been probated or offered for informal or formal probate elsewhere.

(c) A personal representative of the decedent whose appointment has not been terminated.

(d) A person who has filed a demand for notice under section 3205.

(e) The trustee of a trust described in section 7501(1) as to which the decedent was settlor.

(2) Notice may be given to other persons. In addition, the petitioner shall give notice by publication to each unknown person and to each known person whose address is unknown who has an interest in the matters being litigated. If the proceeding involves a request for appointment of a personal representative and it appears that the deceased died intestate without leaving a known heir, the petitioner shall give notice to the attorney general, public administration division.

(3) If it appears by the petition or otherwise that the fact of the decedent's death may be in doubt, or on the written demand of an interested person, a copy of the notice of the hearing on the petition shall be sent by registered mail to the alleged decedent at his or her last known address. The court shall direct the petitioner to report the results of, or make and report back concerning, a reasonably diligent search for the alleged decedent in any manner that may seem advisable, including by any of the following methods:

(a) Inserting in 1 or more suitable periodicals a notice requesting information from anyone having knowledge of the alleged decedent's whereabouts.

(b) Notifying law enforcement officials and public welfare agencies in appropriate locations of the alleged decedent's disappearance.

(c) Engaging an investigator's services.

(4) The costs of a search conducted under subsection (3) shall be paid by the petitioner if there is no administration or by the decedent's estate if there is administration.

Sec. 3404. A party to a formal proceeding who opposes the probate of a will for any reason shall state in his or her pleadings the party's objections to probate of the will.

Sec. 3405. (1) If a petition in a testacy proceeding is unopposed, the court may either order probate or intestacy on the strength of the pleadings if satisfied that the conditions of section 3409 have been met or conduct a hearing in open court and require proof of the matters necessary to support the order sought.

(2) If evidence concerning execution of the will is necessary, the sworn statement or testimony of 1 of the attesting witnesses to the instrument is sufficient. If the sworn statement or testimony of an attesting witness is not available, execution of the will may be proved by other evidence or sworn statement. If, after diligent search and effort and after the signature of the testator is identified, it appears that the whereabouts of the witnesses to a will cannot be

ascertained and it appears on the face of the will that the requirements in this section for a valid will have been met, a presumption arises that the will was executed in all particulars as required by law.

Sec. 3406. (1) If evidence concerning execution of an attested will that is not self-proved is necessary in a contested case, the testimony of at least 1 of the attesting witnesses, if within the state and if competent and able to testify, is required. Due execution of an attested or unattested will may be proved by other evidence.

(2) If a will is self-proved, compliance with signature requirements for execution is conclusively presumed and other requirements of execution are presumed subject to rebuttal without the testimony of any witness upon filing the will and the acknowledgment and sworn statements annexed or attached to the will, unless there is proof of fraud or forgery affecting the acknowledgment or a sworn statement.

(3) If a witness is competent at the time he or she signs the will, the witness's subsequent incompetency from whatever cause does not prevent admission of the will to probate, if it is otherwise satisfactorily proved.

Sec. 3407. (1) All of the following apply in a contested case:

(a) A petitioner who seeks to establish intestacy has the burden of establishing prima facie proof of death, venue, and heirship.

(b) A proponent of a will has the burden of establishing prima facie proof of due execution in all cases and, if the proponent is also a petitioner, prima facie proof of death and venue.

(c) A contestant of a will has the burden of establishing lack of testamentary intent or capacity, undue influence, fraud, duress, mistake, or revocation.

(d) A party has the ultimate burden of persuasion as to a matter with respect to which the party has the initial burden of proof.

(2) If a will is opposed by a petition for probate of a later will revoking the former, the court shall first determine whether the later will is entitled to probate. If a will is opposed by a petition for a declaration of intestacy, the court shall first determine whether the will is entitled to probate.

Sec. 3408. This state's court shall accept as determinative a final order of a court of another state determining testacy, or the validity or construction of a will, made in a proceeding involving notice to and an opportunity for contest by all interested persons if the order includes, or is based upon, a finding that the decedent was domiciled at death in the state where the order was made.

Sec. 3409. (1) After the time expires for any required notice, upon proof of notice and after a hearing, if necessary, if the court finds that the testator is dead and that venue is proper, the court shall determine the decedent's domicile at death, the decedent's heirs, and the decedent's state of testacy. The petition shall be dismissed or appropriate amendment allowed if the court is not satisfied that the alleged decedent is dead.

(2) A will found to be valid and unrevoked shall be formally probated. Termination of a previous informal appointment of a personal representative, which may be appropriate in view of the relief requested and findings, is governed by section 3612. A will from a place that does not provide for probate of a will after death may be proved for probate in this state by a duly authenticated certificate of its legal custodian that the copy introduced is a true copy and that the will is effective under the law of the other place.

Sec. 3410. If 2 or more instruments are offered for probate before a final order is entered in a formal testacy proceeding, more than 1 instrument may be probated if neither expressly revokes the other and neither contains provisions that work a total revocation by implication. If more than 1 instrument is probated, the order shall indicate which provisions control in respect to the nomination of the personal representative, if any. The order may, but need not, indicate how any provisions of a particular instrument are affected by another instrument. After a final order in a testacy proceeding has been entered, a petition for probate of another instrument of the decedent shall not be entertained, except incident to a petition to vacate or modify a previous probate order and subject to the time limits of section 3412.

Sec. 3411. If it becomes evident in the course of a formal testacy proceeding that, though 1 or more instruments are entitled to be probated, the decedent's estate is or may be partially intestate, the court shall enter an order to that effect.

Sec. 3412. (1) Subject to appeal and subject to vacation as provided in this section and section 3413, a formal testacy order under sections 3409 to 3411, including an order that the decedent did not leave a valid will and that determines heirs, is final as to all persons with respect to all issues concerning the decedent's estate that the court considered or might have considered incident to its rendition relevant to the question of whether the decedent left a valid will and to the determination of heirs, except that:

(a) The court shall entertain a petition for modification or vacation of its order and probate of another will of the decedent if it is shown that the proponents of the later-offered will were unaware of that will's existence at the time of the earlier proceeding, or were unaware and were given no notice of that earlier proceeding, except by publication.

(b) If intestacy of all or part of the estate has been ordered, the determination of the decedent's heirs may be reconsidered if it is shown that an individual was omitted from the determination and that the omitted individual was unaware of his or her relationship to the decedent, was unaware of the decedent's death, or was not given notice of any proceeding concerning the decedent's estate, except by publication.

(2) A petition for vacation filed under subsection (1) shall be filed before the earlier of the following time limits:

(a) If a personal representative is appointed for the estate, the time of entry of an order approving final distribution of the estate or, if the estate is closed by statement, 6 months after the filing of the closing statement.

(b) One year after the entry of the order sought to be vacated.

(3) The order originally rendered in the testacy proceeding may be modified or vacated, if appropriate under the circumstances, by the order of probate of the later-offered will or the order redetermining heirs.

(4) The finding of the fact of death is conclusive as to the alleged decedent only if notice of the hearing on the petition in the formal testacy proceeding was sent by registered or certified mail addressed to the alleged decedent at his or her last known address and the court finds that a search was made under section 3403(3).

(5) If the alleged decedent is not dead, even if notice was sent and the search was made, the alleged decedent may recover estate assets in the hands of the personal representative. In addition to any remedies available to the alleged decedent by reason of any fraud or intentional wrongdoing, the alleged decedent may recover any estate or its proceeds from distributees that is in their hands, or the value of distributions received by them, to the extent that any recovery from distributees is equitable in view of all of the circumstances.

Sec. 3413. For good cause shown, an order in a formal testacy proceeding may be modified or vacated within the time allowed for appeal.

Sec. 3414. (1) If an issue concerning the decedent's testacy is or may be involved, a formal proceeding for adjudication regarding the priority or qualification of an individual who is seeking appointment as personal representative or who was previously appointed personal representative in informal proceedings is governed by this section and section 3402. In other cases, the petition must contain or adopt the statements required by section 3301(1)(a) and shall describe the question relating to the personal representative's priority or qualification that is to be resolved.

(2) If a formal proceeding precedes the appointment of a personal representative, the formal proceeding stays an informal appointment proceeding that is pending or that is commenced after the formal proceeding's commencement. If the formal proceeding is commenced after the appointment of a personal representative and after the personal representative receives notice of the commencement, the personal representative shall not exercise a power of administration except as necessary to preserve the estate or unless the court orders otherwise.

(3) After notice to interested persons, including all persons interested in the administration of the estate as successors under the applicable assumption concerning testacy, a previously appointed personal representative, a person having or claiming priority for appointment as personal representative, and any other person described in section 3403(1) or (2), the court shall determine who is entitled to appointment under section 3203, make a proper appointment, and, if appropriate, terminate a prior appointment found to be improper as provided in cases of removal under section 3611.

Sec. 3415. Unless supervised administration is sought and ordered, each person interested in an estate, including a personal representative, whether appointed informally or after notice, may make 1 or more independent requests to the court so that a question or assumption relating to the estate, including the status of an estate as testate or intestate, a matter relating to 1 or more claims, a disputed title, an account of a personal representative, and distribution, may be resolved or established by adjudication after notice without necessarily subjecting the estate to the necessity of a judicial order in regard to other or further questions or assumptions.

## PART 5

### SUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION

Sec. 3501. (1) Supervised administration is a single in rem proceeding to secure complete administration and settlement of a decedent's estate under the court's continuing authority that extends until entry of an order approving estate distribution and discharging the personal representative or other order terminating the proceeding.

(2) A supervised personal representative is responsible to the court, as well as to the interested persons, and is subject to directions concerning the estate made by the court on its own motion or on the motion of an interested person.

(3) Except as otherwise provided in this part or as otherwise ordered by the court, a supervised personal representative has the same duties and powers as a personal representative who is not supervised.

Sec. 3502. (1) Any interested person or a personal representative may file a petition for supervised administration at any time, or a petition for supervised administration may be joined with a petition in a formal testacy or appointment proceeding.

(2) If a decedent's testacy or a personal representative's priority and qualification have not been previously adjudicated, a petition for supervised administration shall include the matters required of a petition in a formal testacy proceeding, and the notice requirements and procedures applicable to a formal testacy proceeding apply. If not previously adjudicated, the court shall adjudicate the decedent's testacy and questions relating to the personal representative's priority and qualifications in any case involving a request for supervised administration, even though the request for supervised administration may be denied.

(3) After notice to interested persons, the court shall order supervised administration of a decedent's estate in any of the following circumstances:

(a) If the decedent's will directs supervised administration, the court shall order supervised administration unless the court finds that circumstances bearing on the need for supervised administration have changed since the execution of the will and that supervised administration is not necessary.

(b) If the decedent's will directs unsupervised administration, the court shall only order supervised administration on a finding that it is necessary for protection of persons interested in the estate.

(c) In other cases, the court shall order supervised administration if the court finds that supervised administration is necessary under the circumstances.

Sec. 3503. (1) The pendency of a proceeding for supervised administration of a decedent's estate stays action on a pending informal application or an informal application filed after commencement of the proceeding for supervised administration.

(2) If a will has been previously probated in informal proceedings, the filing of a petition for supervised administration has the same effect as a formal testacy proceeding under section 3401.

(3) After receipt of notice of the filing of a supervised administration petition, a personal representative who has been previously appointed shall not exercise the power to distribute the estate. The filing of such a petition does not affect the personal representative's other powers and duties unless the court restricts the exercise of any of those powers and duties pending full hearing on the petition.

Sec. 3504. Unless restricted by the court, a supervised personal representative has, without an interim order approving exercise of a power, all the powers of a personal representative under this act, but shall not exercise the power to make a distribution of the estate without prior court order. Any other restriction on a supervised personal representative's power that the court orders must be endorsed on the letters of appointment. Unless a restriction is endorsed as provided in this section, the restriction is ineffective as to persons dealing in good faith with the personal representative.

Sec. 3505. Unless otherwise ordered by the court, supervised administration is terminated by an order in accordance with time restrictions, notices, and contents of orders prescribed for proceedings under section 3951. The court may issue an interim order approving or directing a partial distribution or granting other relief at any time during the pendency of a supervised administration on the petition of the personal representative or an interested person.

## PART 6

### PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND APPOINTMENT, CONTROL, AND TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY

Sec. 3601. (1) Prior to receiving letters, a personal representative shall qualify by filing with the appointing court any required bond and a statement of acceptance of the duties of the office.

(2) In filing the statement of acceptance, the personal representative may exclude from the scope of the personal representative's responsibility, for a period not to exceed 91 days, real estate or an ownership interest in a business entity if the personal representative reasonably believes the real estate or other property owned by the business entity is or may be contaminated by a hazardous substance, or is or has been used for any activity directly or indirectly involving a hazardous substance, that could result in liability to the estate or otherwise impair the value of property held in the estate. The personal representative must identify the real estate or ownership interest being excluded and shall specify the time period of exclusion.

(3) If the personal representative identifies excluded property under subsection (2), the personal representative's responsibilities extend to the excluded property at the end of the exclusion period or upon the personal representative's notice to the court of acceptance of that property, unless, before the end of the exclusion period, the personal representative requests the court to appoint a special personal representative with respect to the excluded property or to exercise administrative authority over the excluded property by direct judicial order.

(4) In response to a request by the general personal representative under subsection (3), the court may do either of the following:

(a) Appoint a special personal representative with the duty and authority to collect and manage the excluded property, but only to the extent necessary for proper settlement of the estate and to preserve, account with respect to, and distribute or otherwise dispose of the excluded property as directed by the general personal representative or other court order.

(b) Directly administer the excluded property by judicial orders without the appointment of a personal representative with respect to the property.

Sec. 3602. By accepting appointment, a personal representative submits personally to the court's jurisdiction in a proceeding relating to the estate that may be instituted by an interested person. The interested person instituting the proceeding must give notice of the proceeding to the personal representative by personal service or by ordinary first-class mail mailed to the personal representative's address as stated in the application or petition for appointment, or as otherwise reported to the court, and if different, to the personal representative's address as then known to the interested person.

Sec. 3603. (1) A bond is not required of a personal representative appointed in informal proceedings, except in any of the following circumstances:

(a) A special personal representative is appointed.

(b) The personal representative is appointed to administer an estate under a will containing an express requirement of bond.

(c) Bond is required under section 3605.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, in a formal proceeding, the court may order bond at the time of the personal representative's appointment. The court shall not order bond of the personal representative in the formal proceeding if the will relieves the personal representative of bond, unless an interested person requests bond and the court is satisfied that bond is desirable. If a will in a formal proceeding requires bond, bond may be dispensed with if the court determines it is unnecessary.

(3) Bond is not required of a personal representative who deposits, as determined by the court, cash or collateral with the county treasurer to secure performance of the fiduciary duties.

Sec. 3604. If bond is required and the provisions of the will or order do not specify the amount, unless stated in the person's application or petition, a person qualifying shall file a statement under oath with the register indicating the person's best estimate of the value of the decedent's personal estate and of the income expected from the personal and real estate during the next year, and shall execute and file a bond with the register, or give other suitable security, in an amount not less than the estimate. The register shall determine that the bond is duly executed by a corporate surety, or 1 or more individual sureties whose performance is secured by pledge of personal property, mortgage on real property, or other adequate security. The register may permit the amount of the bond to be reduced by the value of estate property deposited in this state with a financial institution in a manner that prevents the property's unauthorized disposition. On petition of the personal representative or another interested person or on the court's own motion, the court may excuse a requirement of bond, increase or reduce the amount of the bond, release sureties, or permit the substitution of another bond with the same or different sureties.

Sec. 3605. A person apparently having an interest in the estate worth in excess of \$2,500.00 or a creditor having a claim against the estate in excess of \$2,500.00 may make a written demand that a personal representative give bond. The demand must be filed with the register, and if appointment and qualification have occurred, a copy must be mailed to the personal representative. Upon filing of the demand, bond is required, but the requirement ceases if the person demanding bond ceases to be interested in the estate or if bond is excused as provided in section 3603 or 3604. After receipt of notice and until the filing of the bond or cessation of the requirement of bond, the personal representative shall refrain from exercising any powers of the fiduciary office except as necessary to preserve the estate. Failure of the personal representative to meet a requirement of bond by giving suitable bond within 28 days after receipt of notice is cause for removal and appointment of a successor personal representative.

Sec. 3606. The following requirements and provisions apply to a bond required by this part:

(a) A bond shall name the state of Michigan as obligee for the benefit of the persons interested in the estate and shall be conditioned upon the faithful discharge by the fiduciary of all duties according to law.

(b) Unless otherwise provided by the terms of the approved bond, sureties are jointly and severally liable with the personal representative and with each other. The address of sureties shall be stated in the bond.

(c) By executing an approved bond of a personal representative, the surety consents to the jurisdiction of the court that issues letters to the primary obligor in a proceeding pertaining to the personal representative's fiduciary duties and naming the surety as a party. The petitioner shall notify a surety of a proceeding by personal service or by registered or certified mail to the surety's address as listed with the court where the bond is filed and to the surety's address as then known to the petitioner.

(d) On petition of a successor personal representative, another personal representative of the same decedent, or an interested person, a proceeding in the court may be initiated against a surety for breach of the obligation of the personal representative's bond. If a fiduciary fails to perform a duty or perform a duty properly, the court may order a surety to perform an act the fiduciary should have performed or to correct an act the fiduciary performed improperly.

(e) The personal representative's bond is not void after the first recovery but may be proceeded against from time to time until the whole penalty is exhausted.

(f) An action or proceeding shall not be commenced against the surety on a matter as to which an action or proceeding against the primary obligor is barred by adjudication or limitation.

Sec. 3607. (1) On petition of a person who appears to be an interested person or acting on the court's own motion, the court, by temporary order, may restrain a personal representative from performing a specified act of administration, disbursement, or distribution, or from exercising a power or discharging a duty of the personal representative's office, or may make another order to secure proper performance of the personal representative's duty, if it appears to the court that the personal representative otherwise may take some action that would jeopardize unreasonably the interest of the petitioner or of some other interested person. A person with whom the personal representative may transact business may be made a party.

(2) The court shall set a hearing date for a matter described in subsection (1), which hearing date shall be not more than 14 days after the date of the issuance of the temporary order, unless the parties agree otherwise. Notice shall be given as the court directs to the personal representative, to the personal representative's attorney of record, if any, and to any parties named defendant in the petition.

Sec. 3608. Termination of appointment of a personal representative occurs as provided in sections 3609 to 3612. Termination ends the right and power pertaining to the office of personal representative as conferred by this act or a will, except that a personal representative, at any time before distribution or until restrained or enjoined by court order, may perform an act necessary to protect the estate and may deliver property to a successor personal representative. Termination does not discharge a personal representative from liability for a transaction or omission occurring before termination, or relieve the personal representative of the duty to preserve property subject to the personal representative's control, and to account for and deliver that property. Termination does not affect the court's jurisdiction over the personal representative, but does terminate the personal representative's authority to represent the estate in a pending or future proceeding.

Sec. 3609. The personal representative's death or a conservator's appointment for the personal representative's estate terminates the appointment of that individual. Until appointment and qualification of a successor or special personal representative to replace the deceased or protected personal representative, the personal representative of the estate of the deceased or conservator of the protected personal representative has the duty to protect the estate possessed and being administered by the decedent or ward at the time the appointment terminates, has the power to perform acts necessary for that protection, and shall account for and deliver the estate property to a successor or special personal representative upon the successor's appointment and qualification.

Sec. 3610. (1) A personal representative's appointment terminates 1 year after the filing of a closing statement as provided in section 3954.

(2) A personal representative's appointment terminates when the court enters an order closing an estate as provided in section 3952 or 3953.

(3) After giving at least 14 days' written notice to known interested persons, a personal representative may resign by filing a written statement of resignation with the register. If no one applies or petitions for appointment of a successor personal representative within the time indicated in the notice, the filed statement of resignation is ineffective as a termination of appointment and is effective only upon the appointment and qualification of a successor personal representative and delivery of the estate property to the successor personal representative.

Sec. 3611. (1) An interested person may petition for removal of a personal representative for cause at any time. Upon filing of the petition, the court shall fix a time and place for hearing. The petitioner shall give notice to the personal representative and to other persons as the court orders. Except as otherwise ordered under section 3607, after receipt of notice of removal proceedings, the personal representative shall not act except to account, to correct maladministration, or preserve the estate. If removal is ordered, the court shall also direct by order the disposition of the property remaining in the name of, or under the control of, the personal representative being removed.

(2) The court may remove a personal representative under any of the following circumstances:

(a) Removal is in the best interests of the estate.

(b) It is shown that the personal representative or the person who sought the personal representative's appointment intentionally misrepresented material facts in a proceeding leading to the appointment.

(c) The personal representative did any of the following:

(i) Disregarded a court order.

(ii) Became incapable of discharging the duties of office.

(iii) Mismanaged the estate.

(iv) Failed to perform a duty pertaining to the office.

(3) Unless the decedent's will directs otherwise, a personal representative appointed at the decedent's domicile, incident to securing appointment of an ancillary personal representative, may obtain removal of another who was appointed personal representative in this state to administer in state assets.

Sec. 3612. Except as otherwise ordered in formal proceedings, the probate of a will after the appointment of a personal representative in intestacy or under a will that is superseded by formal probate of another will, or the vacation of an informal probate of a will after the appointment of the personal representative under that will, does not terminate the personal representative's appointment, although the personal representative's powers may be reduced as provided in section 3401. Termination occurs upon appointment in informal or formal appointment proceedings of a person entitled to appointment under the later assumption concerning testacy. If no request for new appointment is made within 28 days after expiration of time for appeal from the order in formal testacy proceedings, or from the informal probate, changing the assumption concerning testacy, the previously appointed personal representative upon request may be appointed personal representative under the subsequently probated will, or as in intestacy as the case may be.

Sec. 3613. The appointment of a personal representative to succeed a personal representative whose appointment is terminated is governed by parts 3 and 4 of this article. After appointment and qualification, a successor personal representative must be substituted in all actions and proceedings in which the former personal representative was a party. A notice, process, or claim that was given or served upon the terminated personal representative need not be given to or served upon the successor personal representative in order to preserve a position or right the person that gave the notice or filed the claim may have obtained or preserved with reference to the former personal representative. Except as the court otherwise orders, the successor personal representative has the powers and duties in respect to the continued administration that the former personal representative would have had if the appointment had not been terminated.

Sec. 3614. A special personal representative may be appointed in any of the following circumstances:

(a) Informally by the register on the application of an interested person if necessary to protect the estate of a decedent before the appointment of a general personal representative or if a prior appointment is terminated as provided in section 3609.

(b) By the court on its own motion or in a formal proceeding by court order on the petition of an interested person if in either case, after notice and hearing, the court finds that the appointment is necessary to preserve the estate or to secure its proper administration, including its administration in circumstances in which a general personal representative cannot or should not act. If it appears to the court that an emergency exists, the court may order the appointment without notice.

Sec. 3615. (1) If a special personal representative is to be appointed pending the probate of a will that is the subject of a pending application or petition for probate, the person named personal representative in the will shall be appointed as the special personal representative, if available and qualified, unless the court finds the appointment is not in the best interest of the estate or the estate's beneficiaries.

(2) In any other case, the court may appoint any proper person as special personal representative.

Sec. 3616. A special personal representative appointed by the register in informal proceedings as provided in section 3614 has the duty to collect and manage the estate property, to preserve and account for the property, and to deliver



the property to the general personal representative upon qualification. This special personal representative has the power of a personal representative under this act necessary to perform his or her duties.

Sec. 3617. A special personal representative appointed by order of the court in a formal proceeding has a general personal representative's power except as limited in the appointment and duties as prescribed in the order. The appointment may be for a specified time, to perform particular acts, or on other terms as the court directs.

Sec. 3618. A special personal representative's appointment terminates in accordance with the provisions of the order of appointment or on the appointment of a general personal representative. In any other case, a special personal representative's appointment is subject to termination as provided in sections 3608 to 3612.

## PART 7

### DUTIES AND POWERS OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Sec. 3701. A personal representative's duties and powers commence upon appointment. A personal representative's powers relate back in time to give acts by the person appointed that are beneficial to the estate occurring before appointment the same effect as those occurring after appointment. Before or after appointment, a person named as personal representative in a will may carry out the decedent's written instructions relating to the decedent's body, funeral, and burial arrangements. A personal representative may ratify and accept an act on behalf of the estate done by another if the act would have been proper for a personal representative.

Sec. 3702. A person to whom general letters are issued first has exclusive authority under the letters until the appointment is terminated or modified. If, through error, general letters are afterwards issued to another person, the first appointed representative may recover estate property in the hands of the representative subsequently appointed, but the acts of the latter done in good faith before notice of the first letters are not void for want of validity of appointment.

Sec. 3703. (1) A personal representative is a fiduciary who shall observe the standard of care applicable to a trustee as described by section 7302. A personal representative is under a duty to settle and distribute the decedent's estate in accordance with the terms of a probated and effective will and this act, and as expeditiously and efficiently as is consistent with the best interests of the estate. The personal representative shall use the authority conferred by this act, the terms of the will, if any, and an order in a proceeding to which the personal representative is party for the best interests of claimants whose claims have been allowed and of successors to the estate.

(2) A personal representative shall not be surcharged for acts of administration or distribution if the conduct in question was authorized at the time. Subject to other obligations of administration, an informally probated will is authority to administer and distribute the estate according to the will's terms. Whether issued in an informal or formal proceeding, an order of appointment of a personal representative is authority to distribute apparently intestate property to the decedent's heirs if, at the time of distribution, the personal representative is not aware of a pending testacy proceeding, a proceeding to vacate an order entered in an earlier testacy proceeding, a formal proceeding questioning the personal representative's appointment or fitness to continue, or a supervised administration proceeding. Nothing in this section affects the personal representative's duty to administer and distribute the estate in accordance with the rights of a claimant whose claim has been allowed, the surviving spouse, a minor or dependent child, or a pretermitted child of the decedent as described elsewhere in this act.

(3) Except as to a proceeding that does not survive the decedent's death, a personal representative of a decedent domiciled in this state at death has the same standing to sue and be sued in the courts of this state and the courts of another jurisdiction as the decedent had immediately prior to death.

(4) The personal representative shall keep each presumptive distributee informed of the estate settlement. Until a beneficiary's share is fully distributed, the personal representative shall annually, and upon completion of the estate settlement, account to each beneficiary by supplying a statement of the activities of the estate and of the personal representative, specifying all receipts and disbursements and identifying property belonging to the estate.

Sec. 3704. A personal representative shall proceed expeditiously with the settlement and distribution of a decedent's estate and, except as otherwise specified or ordered in regard to a supervised personal representative, do so without adjudication, order, or direction of the court. However, the personal representative may invoke the court's jurisdiction in a proceeding authorized by this act to resolve a question concerning the estate or its administration.

Sec. 3705. (1) Not later than 28 days after a personal representative's appointment or other time specified by court rule, the personal representative, except a special personal representative, shall give notice of the appointment to the decedent's heirs and devisees, except those who have executed a written waiver of notice, including, if there has been no formal testacy proceeding and if the personal representative is appointed on the assumption that the decedent died

intestate, the devisees in a will mentioned in the application for appointment of a personal representative and to the trustee of a trust described in section 7501(1) as to which the decedent was settlor. The personal representative shall give the notice by personal service or by ordinary first-class mail to each person required to receive notice under this subsection whose address is reasonably available to the personal representative. However, the personal representative is not required to notify a person who was adjudicated in a prior formal testacy proceeding to have no interest in the estate. The notice required under this section must be in a form approved by the supreme court and must include all of the following information:

(a) That the court will not supervise the personal representative. This statement shall not be included if the appointment is made in a supervised proceeding under part 5 of this article.

(b) That, unless a person files a written objection to the appointment of the person named as personal representative in the notice or files a demand that bond or higher bond be posted, the person named in the notice is the personal representative without bond or with bond in the amount shown in the notice. This statement shall not be included if the personal representative is appointed in a formal appointment proceeding.

(c) The name and address of the person appointed as the estate's personal representative.

(d) That, during the course of administering the estate, the personal representative must provide all interested persons with all of the following:

(i) A copy of the petition for the personal representative's appointment and a copy of the will, if any, with the notice.

(ii) A copy of the inventory.

(iii) A copy of the settlement petition or of the closing statement.

(iv) Unless waived, a copy of the account, including, but not limited to, fiduciary fees and attorney fees charged to the estate.

(e) That an interested person may petition the court for a court hearing on any matter at any time during the estate's administration, including, but not limited to, distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

(f) That federal and Michigan estate taxes, if any, must be paid within 9 months after the date of the decedent's death or another time period specified by law, to avoid penalties.

(g) That, if the estate is not settled within 1 year after the personal representative's appointment, within 28 days after the anniversary of the appointment, the personal representative must file with the court and send to each interested person a notice that the estate remains under administration and must specify the reason for the continuation of settlement proceedings. If such a notice is not received, an interested person may petition the court for a hearing on the necessity for continued administration or for closure of the estate.

(h) The identity and location of the court where papers relating to the estate are on file.

(2) The personal representative's failure to give the information required by subsection (1) is a breach of the personal representative's duty to the persons concerned, but does not affect the validity of the personal representative's appointment, powers, or other duties. A personal representative may inform other persons of the appointment by delivery or ordinary first-class mail.

(3) A personal representative shall also give notice that includes the information described in subsection (1) to the attorney general, public administration division, under any of the following circumstances:

(a) It appears from the petition that the decedent died intestate without leaving a known heir.

(b) In the administration of an intestate estate, it appears that the decedent did not leave a known heir.

(c) In the administration of a testate estate, it appears that devisees of the purported will would not be entitled to share in the estate but for the terms of the will and that the decedent died without leaving a known heir.

(4) If notice is required to be given to the attorney general under subsection (3), the attorney general, representing the state, has all the rights of an heir to be heard and to contest the validity of a claim, the appointment of a personal representative, an action of the personal representative, an order, an appointment, or an instrument purporting to be a decedent's contract or will, and has all the rights granted or accruing to an heir, representative, or creditor by a law relating to the settlement of a testate or intestate estate in court, or by way of rehearing or appeal.

(5) Within 28 days after the personal representative's appointment or another time specified by court rule, the personal representative, except a special personal representative, shall notify the decedent's surviving spouse, if any, of the spouse's right to election under part 2 of article II and of the time within which the election must be exercised.

Sec. 3706. (1) Within 91 days after appointment or other time specified by court rule, a personal representative, who is not a special personal representative or a successor to another representative who has previously discharged this duty, shall prepare an inventory of property owned by the decedent at the time of death, listing it with reasonable detail, and indicating as to each listed item, its fair market value as of the date of the decedent's death, and the type and amount of an encumbrance that may exist with reference to each listed item.

(2) The personal representative shall send a copy of the inventory to all presumptive distributees and to all other interested persons who request it, and may also file the original of the inventory with the court. The personal representative shall submit to the court on a timely basis information necessary to calculate the probate inventory fee.

Sec. 3707. The personal representative may employ a qualified and disinterested appraiser to assist in ascertaining the fair market value as of the date of the decedent's death of property, the value of which may be subject to reasonable doubt. Different persons may be employed to appraise different kinds of property included in the estate. Each appraiser's name and address shall be indicated on the inventory with the item or items he or she appraised.

Sec. 3708. If property not included in the original inventory comes to the knowledge of a personal representative or if the personal representative learns that the value or description indicated in the original inventory for an item is erroneous or misleading, the personal representative shall make a supplementary inventory or appraisal showing the market value as of the date of the decedent's death of the new item or the revised market value or description, and showing the appraiser or other data relied upon, if any. The personal representative shall furnish copies or information of the supplementary inventory to persons interested in the new information, and shall file it with the court if the original inventory was filed or submit the information contained in the supplemental inventory to the court for recalculation of the probate inventory fee.

Sec. 3709. Except as otherwise provided by a decedent's will or by this section, a personal representative has a right to, and if necessary for purposes of administration, shall take possession or control of, the decedent's property, except that real property or tangible personal property may be left with or surrendered to the person presumptively entitled to that property unless or until, in the personal representative's judgment, possession of the property will be necessary for purposes of administration. A personal representative's request for delivery of property possessed by an heir or devisee is conclusive evidence, in an action against the heir or devisee for possession of that property, that the possession of the property by the personal representative is necessary for purposes of administration. The personal representative shall pay taxes on, and take all steps reasonably necessary for the management, protection, and preservation of, the estate in the personal representative's possession. The personal representative may maintain an action to recover possession of, or to determine the title to, property.

Sec. 3710. The property liable for the payment of unsecured debts of a decedent includes all property transferred by the decedent by any means that is in law void or voidable as against the decedent's creditors, and subject to prior liens, the right to recover this property, so far as necessary for the payment of the decedent's unsecured debts, is exclusively in the personal representative.

Sec. 3711. Until termination of the appointment, a personal representative has the same power over the title to estate property that an absolute owner would have, in trust, however, for the benefit of creditors or others interested in the estate. This power may be exercised without notice, hearing, or court order.

Sec. 3712. If the exercise or failure to exercise a power concerning the estate is improper, the personal representative is liable to interested persons for damage or loss resulting from breach of fiduciary duty to the same extent as a trustee of an express trust. The right of purchasers and others dealing with a personal representative shall be determined as provided in sections 3713 and 3714.

Sec. 3713. A sale or encumbrance to the personal representative, the personal representative's spouse, agent, or attorney, or a corporation or trust in which the personal representative has a substantial beneficial interest, or a transaction that is affected by a substantial conflict of interest on the part of the personal representative, is voidable by an interested person except a person who consents after fair disclosure, unless any of the following are true:

- (a) The will or a contract entered into by the decedent expressly authorized the transaction.
- (b) The transaction is approved by the court after notice to interested persons.
- (c) The transaction is otherwise permitted by statute.

Sec. 3714. (1) A person who in good faith either assists a personal representative or deals with the personal representative for value is protected as if the personal representative properly exercised a power. The fact that a person knowingly deals with a personal representative does not alone require the person to inquire into the existence of a power or the propriety of its exercise.

(2) Except for restrictions on powers of supervised personal representatives that are endorsed on letters as provided in section 3504, a provision in a will or court order purporting to limit a personal representative's power is not effective except as to a person with actual knowledge of the limit.

(3) A person is not bound to see to the proper application of estate property paid or delivered to a personal representative.

(4) The protection under this section extends to instances in which a procedural irregularity or jurisdictional defect occurs in a proceeding leading to the issuance of letters, including a case in which the alleged decedent is found to be alive. The protection under this section does not substitute for the protection provided by a comparable provision of law relating to a commercial transaction or a law simplifying a transfer of securities by a fiduciary. Nothing in this section discharges a lien for transfer taxes that may affect title to estate property.

Sec. 3715. Except as restricted or otherwise provided by the will or by an order in a formal proceeding, and subject to the priorities stated in section 3902, a personal representative, acting reasonably for the benefit of interested persons, may properly do any of the following:

(a) Retain property owned by the decedent pending distribution or liquidation including property in which the personal representative is personally interested or that is otherwise improper for trust investment.

(b) Receive property from a fiduciary or another source.

(c) Perform, compromise, or refuse performance of a contract of the decedent that continues as an estate obligation, as the personal representative determines under the circumstances. If the contract is for a conveyance of land and requires the giving of warranties, the personal representative shall include in the deed or other instrument of conveyance the required warranties. The warranties are binding on the estate as though the decedent made them but do not bind the personal representative except in a fiduciary capacity. In performing an enforceable contract by the decedent to convey or lease land, the personal representative, among other possible courses of action, may do any of the following:

(i) Execute and deliver a deed of conveyance for cash payment of the amount remaining due or for the purchaser's note for the amount remaining due secured by a mortgage on the land.

(ii) Deliver a deed in escrow with directions that the proceeds, when paid in accordance with the escrow agreement, be paid to the decedent's successors, as designated in the escrow agreement.

(d) If, in the judgment of the personal representative, the decedent would have wanted the pledge satisfied under the circumstances, satisfy a written charitable pledge of the decedent irrespective of whether the pledge constitutes a binding obligation of the decedent or is properly presented as a claim.

(e) If funds are not needed to meet a debt or expenses currently payable and are not immediately distributable, deposit or invest liquid assets of the estate, including funds received from the sale of other property in accordance with the Michigan prudent investor rule.

(f) Acquire or dispose of property, including land in this or another state, for cash or on credit, at public or private sale; and manage, develop, improve, exchange, partition, change the character of, or abandon estate property.

(g) Make an ordinary or extraordinary repair or alteration in a building or other structure, demolish an improvement, or raze an existing or erect a new party wall or building.

(h) Subdivide, develop, or dedicate land to public use, make or obtain the vacation of a plat or adjust a boundary, adjust a difference in valuation on exchange or partition by giving or receiving consideration, or dedicate an easement to public use without consideration.

(i) Enter into a lease as lessor or lessee for any purpose, with or without an option to purchase or renew, for a term within or extending beyond the period of administration.

(j) Enter into a lease or arrangement for exploration and removal of minerals or another natural resource, or enter into a pooling or unitization agreement.

(k) Abandon property when, in the opinion of the personal representative, it is valueless, or is so encumbered or in such a condition as to be of no benefit to the estate.

(l) Vote stocks or another security in person or by general or limited proxy.

(m) Pay a call, assessment, or another amount chargeable or accruing against or on account of a security, unless barred by a provision relating to claims.

(n) Hold a security in the name of a nominee or in other form without disclosure of the estate's interest. However, the personal representative is liable for an act of the nominee in connection with the security so held.

(o) Insure the estate property against damage, loss, and liability and insure the personal representative against liability as to third persons.

(p) Borrow money with or without security to be repaid from the estate property or otherwise, and advance money for the estate's protection.

(q) Effect a fair and reasonable compromise with a debtor or obligor, or extend, renew, or in any manner modify the terms of an obligation owing to the estate. If the personal representative holds a mortgage, pledge, or other lien upon another person's property, the personal representative may, in lieu of foreclosure, accept a conveyance or transfer of encumbered property from the property's owner in satisfaction of the indebtedness secured by lien.

(r) Pay a tax, an assessment, the personal representative's compensation, or another expense incident to the estate's administration.

(s) Sell or exercise a stock subscription or conversion right.

(t) Consent, directly or through a committee or other agent, to the reorganization, consolidation, merger, dissolution, or liquidation of a corporation or other business enterprise.

(u) Allocate items of income or expense to either estate income or principal, as permitted or provided by law.

(v) Employ, and pay reasonable compensation for reasonably necessary services performed by, a person, including, but not limited to, an auditor, investment advisor, or agent, even if the person is associated with the personal representative, to advise or assist the personal representative in the performance of administrative duties; act on such a person's recommendations without independent investigation; and instead of acting personally, employ 1 or more agents to perform an act of administration, whether or not discretionary.

(w) Employ an attorney to perform necessary legal services or to advise or assist the personal representative in the performance of the personal representative's administrative duties. An attorney employed under this subdivision shall receive reasonable compensation for that employment.

(x) Prosecute or defend a claim or proceeding in any jurisdiction for the protection of the estate and of the personal representative in the performance of the personal representative's duties.

(y) Sell, mortgage, or lease estate property or an interest in estate property for cash, credit, or part cash and part credit, and with or without security for unpaid balances.

(z) Continue a business or venture in which the decedent was engaged at the time of death as a sole proprietor or a general partner, including continuation as a general partner by a personal representative that is a corporation in any of the following manners:

(i) In the same business form for a period of not more than 4 months after the date of appointment of a general personal representative if continuation is a reasonable means of preserving the value of the business, including goodwill.

(ii) In the same business form for an additional period of time that may be approved by court order in a formal proceeding to which the persons interested in the estate are parties.

(iii) Throughout the period of administration if the personal representative incorporates the business or converts the business to a limited liability company and if none of the probable distributees of the business who are competent adults object to its incorporation or conversion and its retention in the estate.

(aa) Change the form of a business or venture in which the decedent was engaged at the time of death through incorporation or formation as a limited liability company, or other entity offering protection against or limiting exposure to liabilities.

(bb) Provide for the personal representative's exoneration from personal liability in a contract entered into on the estate's behalf.

(cc) Respond to an environmental concern or hazard affecting estate property as provided in section 3722.

(dd) Satisfy and settle claims and distribute the estate as provided in this act.

(ee) Make tax elections that are appropriate in order to carry out the decedent's estate planning objectives and to reduce the overall burden of taxation, both in the present and in the future. This authority includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:

(i) Electing to take expenses as estate tax or income tax deductions.

(ii) Electing to allocate the exemption from the tax on generation skipping transfers among transfers subject to estate or gift tax.

(iii) Electing to have all or a portion of a transfer for a spouse's benefit qualify for the marital deduction.

(ff) Divide portions of the estate, including portions to be allocated into trust, into 2 or more separate portions or trusts with substantially identical terms and conditions, and allocate property between them, in order to simplify administration for generation skipping transfer tax purposes, to segregate property for management purposes, or to meet another estate or trust objective.

Sec. 3716. A successor personal representative has the same powers and duties as the original personal representative to complete the administration and distribution of the estate, as expeditiously as possible, but the successor personal representative shall not exercise a power expressly made personal to the personal representative named in the will.

Sec. 3717. If 2 or more persons are appointed personal corepresentatives and unless the will provides otherwise, the concurrence of all is required on an act connected with the estate's administration or distribution. This restriction does not apply if a personal corepresentative receives and gives a receipt for property due the estate, if the concurrence of all cannot readily be obtained in the time reasonably available for emergency action necessary to preserve the estate,

or if a personal corepresentative has been delegated to act for the other. If actually unaware that another also has been appointed to serve or if advised by the personal representative with whom the person deals that 1 personal representative alone has authority to act for a reason mentioned in this section, a person dealing with a personal corepresentative is as fully protected as if the personal corepresentative with whom the person deals is the sole personal representative.

Sec. 3718. Unless the will provides otherwise, each power exercisable by personal corepresentatives may be exercised by the 1 or more remaining personal corepresentatives after the appointment of 1 or more is terminated. Unless the will provides otherwise, if 1 of 2 or more persons nominated as personal corepresentatives is not appointed, those or the 1 appointed may exercise all the powers incident to the office.

Sec. 3719. (1) A personal representative is entitled to reasonable compensation for services performed. A personal representative may pay the personal representative's own compensation periodically as earned without prior court approval.

(2) If an attorney serves as personal representative, the attorney shall maintain time records that state the identity of the person performing personal representative services, the date the services are performed, the amount of time expended in performing the services, and a brief description of the services. Upon request of an interested person affected by payment of personal representative fees, the attorney shall send the time records to the interested person.

(3) If a will provides for the personal representative's compensation and there is no contract with the decedent regarding compensation, the personal representative may renounce the provision before qualifying and be entitled to reasonable compensation. A written contract between the decedent and the personal representative regarding compensation for estate settlement services is binding on the personal representative.

(4) A personal representative also may renounce the right to all or a part of the compensation. A written renunciation of fee may be filed with the court and shall be served on all affected interested persons.

Sec. 3720. If a personal representative or person nominated as personal representative defends or prosecutes a proceeding in good faith, whether successful or not, the personal representative is entitled to receive from the estate necessary expenses and disbursements including reasonable attorney fees incurred.

Sec. 3721. After notice to all interested persons, on petition of an interested person, on appropriate motion if administration is supervised, or on the court's own motion, the court may review the propriety of employment of a person by a personal representative, including, but not limited to, an attorney, accountant, investment advisor, or other specialized agent or assistant, the reasonableness of such a person's compensation, or the reasonableness of the compensation determined by the personal representative for the personal representative's own services. If the court determines that a person received excessive compensation from an estate for services rendered, the court shall order the person to pay an appropriate refund and may include in the refund amount interest and penalties as the court considers just.

Sec. 3722. (1) In response to an environmental concern or hazard, a personal representative may do any of the following:

(a) Inspect property or the operation of a business activity on property held by the personal representative, including property held in or operated by a sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, or limited liability company or any other type of entity, for the purpose of determining compliance with environmental law affecting the property and to respond to an actual or threatened violation of an environmental law affecting property held by the personal representative.

(b) Take action necessary to prevent, abate, or otherwise remedy an actual or threatened violation of an environmental law affecting property held by the personal representative, either before or after a governmental body initiates an enforcement action.

(c) Settle or compromise at any time a claim against the estate that a governmental body or private party may assert involving the alleged violation of an environmental law affecting property held in the trust or estate.

(d) Disclaim a power granted by a document, statute, or rule of law that, in the sole discretion of the personal representative, may cause the personal representative to incur personal liability under an environmental law.

(e) Decline to serve or resign as a personal representative if the personal representative reasonably believes that there is or may be a conflict of interest between it in its fiduciary capacity and in its individual capacity because of a potential claim or liability that may be asserted against the personal representative on the estate's behalf because of the type or condition of property held in the estate.

(f) Charge the cost of an inspection, review, abatement, response, cleanup, settlement of claim, or remedial action authorized by this section against the income or principal of the estate.

(2) A personal representative is not personally liable to a beneficiary or other party for a decrease in value of estate property by reason of the personal representative's compliance with an environmental law, specifically including a reporting requirement under that law. The personal representative's acceptance of property or failure to inspect property or a business operation does not create an inference that there is or may be liability under an environmental law with respect to the property or business operation. The authority granted by this section is solely to facilitate the administration and protection of estate property and is not to impose greater responsibility or liability on the personal representative than imposed by law absent this section.

## PART 8

### CREDITORS' CLAIMS

Sec. 3801. (1) Unless notice has already been given, upon appointment a personal representative shall publish, and a special personal representative may publish, a notice as provided by supreme court rule notifying estate creditors to present their claims within 4 months after the date of the notice's publication or be forever barred. A personal representative who has published notice shall also send, within the time prescribed in subsection (2), a copy of the notice or a similar notice to each estate creditor whom the personal representative knows at the time of publication or during the 4 months following publication and to the trustee of a trust described in section 7501(1) as to which the decedent is settlor. For purposes of this section, the personal representative knows a creditor of the decedent if the personal representative has actual notice of the creditor or the creditor's existence is reasonably ascertainable by the personal representative based on an investigation of the decedent's available records for the 2 years immediately preceding death and mail following death.

(2) Notice to a known creditor of the estate shall be given within the following time limits:

(a) Within 4 months after the date of the publication of notice to creditors.

(b) If the personal representative first knows of an estate creditor less than 28 days before the expiration of the time limit in subdivision (a), within 28 days after the personal representative first knows of the creditor.

(3) If the personal representative or the attorney for the estate in good faith believes that notice to a creditor of the estate is or may be required by this section, and if the personal representative gives notice based on that belief, neither the personal representative nor the attorney is liable to any person for having given notice.

(4) If the personal representative or the attorney for the estate in good faith believes that notice to a person is not required by this section and if the personal representative fails to give notice to that person based on that belief, neither the personal representative nor the attorney is personally liable to any person for the failure to give notice. Liability, if any, for failure to give notice is on the estate.

Sec. 3802. (1) Unless an estate is insolvent, the personal representative, with the consent of all interested persons whose interests would be affected, may waive a statute of limitations defense available to the estate. If a statute of limitations defense is not waived, a claim that was barred by a statute of limitations at the time of the decedent's death shall not be allowed or paid.

(2) The running of a statute of limitations measured from an event other than death or publication for a claim against a decedent is suspended during the 4 months following the decedent's death but resumes after that time as to a claim not barred under this part.

(3) For purposes of a statute of limitations, the proper presentation of a claim under section 3804 is equivalent to commencement of a proceeding on the claim.

Sec. 3803. (1) A claim against a decedent's estate that arose before the decedent's death, including a claim of the state or a subdivision of the state, whether due or to become due, absolute or contingent, liquidated or unliquidated, based on contract, tort, or another legal basis, if not barred earlier by another statute of limitations or nonclaim statute, is barred against the estate, the personal representative, the decedent's heirs and devisees, and nonprobate transferees of the decedent unless presented within 1 of the following time limits:

(a) If notice is given in compliance with section 3801, within 4 months after the date of the publication of notice to creditors, except that a claim barred by a statute at the decedent's domicile before the publication for claims in this state is also barred in this state.

(b) In the case of a creditor whom the personal representative knows at the time of publication or during the 4 months following publication, within 1 month after the subsequent sending of notice or 4 months after the date of the publication of notice to creditors, whichever is later.

(c) If the notice requirements of section 3801 have not been met, within 3 years after the decedent's death.

(2) A claim against the estate that arises at or after the decedent's death, including a claim of the state or a subdivision of the state, whether due or to become due, absolute or contingent, liquidated or unliquidated, based on

contract, tort, or another legal basis, is barred against the estate, the personal representative, and the decedent's heirs and devisees, unless presented within 1 of the following time limits:

(a) For a claim based on a contract with the personal representative, within 4 months after performance by the personal representative is due.

(b) For a claim not within subdivision (a), within 4 months after the claim arises or the time specified in subsection (1)(a), whichever is later.

(3) This section does not affect or prevent any of the following:

(a) A proceeding to enforce a mortgage, pledge, or other lien on estate property.

(b) A proceeding to establish the decedent's or the personal representative's liability for which the decedent or the personal representative is protected by liability insurance to the insurance protection limits only.

(c) Collection of compensation for services rendered and reimbursement of expenses advanced by the personal representative or by an attorney, auditor, investment adviser, or other specialized agent or assistant for the personal representative of the estate.

Sec. 3804. (1) A claimant must present a claim against a decedent's estate in either of the following ways:

(a) By delivering or mailing a written statement to the personal representative or proposed personal representative indicating the claim's basis, the claimant's name and address, and the amount claimed, or by filing with the court a written statement of the claim in the form prescribed by supreme court rule and delivering or mailing a copy of the statement to the personal representative or proposed personal representative. The claim shall be considered presented on receipt of the claim statement by the personal representative or the filing of the claim statement with the court, whichever occurs first. If a claim is not yet due, the statement shall state the date when it will become due. If the claim is contingent or unliquidated, the statement shall state the nature of the uncertainty. If the claim is secured, the statement shall describe the security. Failure to describe correctly the security, the nature of any uncertainty, or the due date of a claim not yet due does not invalidate the claim's presentation.

(b) By commencing a proceeding to obtain payment of a claim against the estate in a court in which the personal representative may be subjected to jurisdiction. The commencement of the proceeding shall occur within the time limit for presenting the claim. The presentation of a claim is not required in regard to a matter claimed in a proceeding against the decedent that is pending at the time of death.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, if a claim is presented under subsection (1)(a), a proceeding on the claim shall not be commenced more than 63 days after the personal representative delivers or mails a notice of disallowance to the claimant. For a claim that is not presently due or that is contingent or unliquidated, the personal representative may consent to an extension of the 63-day period or, to avoid injustice, the court, on petition, may order an extension of the 63-day period, but an extension shall not be consented to or ordered if the extension would run beyond the applicable statute of limitations.

(3) A claim by the personal representative against the estate shall be in the form prescribed by supreme court rule. The personal representative must give a copy of the claim to all interested persons not later than 7 days after the time for the claim's original presentation expires. The claim must contain a warning that the personal representative's claim will be allowed unless a notice of objection is delivered or mailed to the personal representative within 63 days after the time for the claim's original presentation expires. This subsection does not apply to a claim for compensation for services rendered or for reimbursement of expenses advanced by the personal representative.

Sec. 3805. (1) If the applicable estate property is insufficient to pay all claims in full, the personal representative shall make payment in the following order of priority:

(a) Costs and expenses of administration.

(b) Reasonable funeral and burial expenses.

(c) Debts and taxes with priority under federal law.

(d) Reasonable and necessary medical and hospital expenses of the decedent's last illness, including a compensation of persons attending the decedent.

(e) Debts and taxes with priority under other laws of this state.

(f) All other claims.

(2) A preference shall not be given in the payment of a claim over another claim of the same class, and a claim due and payable is not entitled to a preference over a claim not due.

(3) If there are insufficient assets to pay all claims in full or to satisfy homestead allowance, family allowance, and exempt property, the personal representative shall certify the amount and nature of the deficiency to the trustee of a trust described in section 7501(1) for payment by the trustee in accordance with section 7502. If the personal representative is aware of other nonprobate transfers that may be liable for claims and allowances, then, unless the will



provides otherwise, the personal representative shall proceed to collect the deficiency in a manner reasonable under the circumstances so that each nonprobate transfer, including those made under a trust described in section 7501(1), bears a proportionate share or equitable share of the total burden.

Sec. 3806. (1) If a claim is presented in the manner described in section 3804 and within the time limit prescribed in section 3803, the personal representative may deliver or mail a notice to a claimant stating that the claim has been disallowed in whole or in part. If, after allowing or disallowing a claim, the personal representative changes a decision concerning the claim, the personal representative shall notify the claimant. The personal representative shall not change a decision disallowing a claim if the time for the claimant to file a petition for allowance passes or if the time to commence a proceeding on the claim expires and the claim is barred. A claim that the personal representative disallows in whole or in part is barred to the extent disallowed unless the claimant files a petition for allowance in the court or commences a proceeding against the personal representative not later than 63 days after the mailing of the notice of disallowance or partial allowance if the notice warns the claimant of the impending bar.

(2) The personal representative's failure to deliver or mail to a claimant notice of action on the claim within 63 days after the time for the claim's presentation expires or within 63 days after the personal representative's appointment, whichever is later, constitutes a notice of allowance. An interested person's failure to deliver or mail to the personal representative notice of an objection to a personal representative's claim within 63 days after the time the claim's original presentation expires constitutes a notice of allowance.

(3) After allowing or disallowing a claim, the personal representative may change the allowance or disallowance as provided in this subsection. Before payment of a claim, the personal representative may change the allowance to a disallowance in whole or in part, but not after allowance by a court order or judgment or an order directing the claim's payment. The personal representative shall notify the claimant of the change to disallowance, and the disallowed claim is then subject to bar as provided in subsection (1). The personal representative may change a disallowance to an allowance, in whole or in part, until it is barred under subsection (1). After a claim is barred, it may be allowed and paid only if the estate is solvent and all successors whose interests would be affected consent.

(4) Upon the personal representative's or a claimant's petition, the court may allow in whole or in part a claim properly presented in due time and not barred by subsection (1). Upon an interested person's petition concerning a personal representative's claim, the court may allow in whole or in part the personal representative's claim properly presented in due time and not previously allowed under subsection (1).

(5) A judgment in a proceeding in another court against a personal representative to enforce a claim against a decedent's estate constitutes an allowance of the claim.

(6) Unless otherwise provided in a judgment in another court entered against the personal representative, an allowed claim bears interest at a rate determined under section 6013 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.6013, for the period commencing 63 days after the time for the claim's original presentation expires unless based on a contract providing for interest, in which case the claim bears interest in accordance with the contract.

Sec. 3807. (1) Upon the expiration of 4 months after the publication date of the notice to creditors, and after providing for the homestead, family, and exempt property allowances, for claims already presented that have not yet been allowed or whose allowance has been appealed, and for unbarred claims that may yet be presented, including costs and expenses of administration, the personal representative shall pay the claims allowed against the estate in the order of priority as provided in this act. A claimant whose claim has been allowed, but not paid as provided in this section, may petition the court to secure an order directing the personal representative to pay the claim to the extent that property of the estate is available for the payment.

(2) The personal representative may pay a claim that is not barred at any time, with or without formal presentation, but is individually liable to another claimant whose claim is allowed and who is injured by the payment if either of the following occurs:

(a) Payment is made before the expiration of the time limit stated in subsection (1) and the personal representative fails to require the payee to give adequate security for the refund of any of the payment necessary to pay another claimant.

(b) Payment is made, due to the negligence or willful fault of the personal representative, in a manner that deprives the injured claimant of priority.

(3) If a claim is allowed, but the claimant's whereabouts are unknown at the time the personal representative attempts to pay the claim, upon petition by the personal representative and after notice that the court considers advisable, the court may disallow the claim. If the court disallows a claim under this subsection, the claim is barred.

Sec. 3808. (1) Unless otherwise provided in the contract, a personal representative is not individually liable on a contract properly entered into in the personal representative's fiduciary capacity in the course of administration of the estate unless the personal representative fails to reveal his or her representative capacity and to identify the estate in the contract.

(2) A personal representative is individually liable for an obligation arising from ownership or control of the estate or for a tort committed in the course of estate administration only if the personal representative is personally at fault.

(3) A claim based on a contract entered into by a personal representative in the personal representative's fiduciary capacity, on an obligation arising from ownership or control of the estate, or on a tort committed in the course of estate administration may be asserted against the estate by proceeding against the personal representative in the personal representative's fiduciary capacity, whether or not the personal representative is individually liable.

(4) An issue of liability between the estate and the personal representative individually may be determined in a proceeding for accounting, surcharge, or indemnification or in another appropriate proceeding.

Sec. 3809. A personal representative shall pay a secured claim on the basis of the amount allowed if the creditor surrenders the security. Otherwise, the personal representative shall pay on the basis of 1 of the following:

(a) If the creditor exhausts the security before receiving payment, upon the amount of the claim allowed less the fair value of the security.

(b) If the creditor does not have the right to exhaust the security or has not done so, upon the amount of the claim allowed less the value of the security determined by converting it into money according to the terms of the agreement under which the security was delivered to the creditor or by the creditor and personal representative by agreement, arbitration, compromise, or litigation.

Sec. 3810. (1) This section applies to a claim that will become due at a future time, a contingent claim, and an unliquidated claim.

(2) If a claim becomes due or certain before distribution of the estate and if the claim has been allowed or established by a proceeding, the claim shall be paid in the same manner as a presently due and absolute claim of the same class.

(3) For a claim not covered by subsection (2), the personal representative or, on the personal representative's or claimant's petition in a proceeding for the purpose, the court may provide for payment in 1 of the following manners:

(a) If the claimant consents, the claimant may be paid the claim's present or agreed value, taking any uncertainty into account.

(b) Arrangement for future payment, or possible payment, on the happening of a contingency or on liquidation may be made by creating a trust, giving a mortgage, obtaining a bond or security from a distributee, or otherwise.

Sec. 3811. In allowing a claim, the personal representative may deduct a counterclaim that the estate has against the claimant. In determining a claim against an estate, the court shall reduce the amount allowed by the amount of a counterclaim and, if counterclaims exceed the claim, render a judgment against the claimant in the excess amount. A counterclaim, liquidated or unliquidated, may arise from a transaction other than that upon which the claim is based. A counterclaim may give rise to relief exceeding in amount or different in kind from that sought in the claim.

Sec. 3812. An execution shall not issue upon nor shall a levy be made against estate property under a judgment against a decedent or personal representative. This section shall not be construed to prevent the enforcement of a mortgage, pledge, or lien upon property in an appropriate proceeding.

Sec. 3813. If a claim against the estate is presented in the manner provided in section 3804 and it appears to be in the estate's best interest, the personal representative may settle the claim, whether due or not due, absolute or contingent, liquidated or unliquidated.

Sec. 3814. If property of the estate is encumbered by mortgage, pledge, lien, or other security interest and it appears to be in the estate's best interest, the personal representative may pay the encumbrance or a part of the encumbrance, renew or extend an obligation secured by the encumbrance, or convey or transfer the property to the creditor in satisfaction of the lien, in whole or in part, whether or not the encumbrance holder has presented a claim. Payment of an encumbrance does not increase the share of the distributee entitled to the encumbered property unless the distributee is entitled to exoneration.

Sec. 3815. (1) Estate property being administered in this state is subject to a claim, allowance, or charge existing or established against the personal representative wherever appointed.

(2) If the estate, either in this state or as a whole, is insufficient to cover all family exemptions and allowances determined by the law of the decedent's domicile, prior charges, and claims, after satisfaction of the exemptions, allowances, and charges, each claimant whose claim has been allowed, either in this state or elsewhere in administrations of which the personal representative is aware, is entitled to receive payment of an equal proportion of the claim. If a preference or security in regard to a claim is allowed in another jurisdiction but not in this state, the benefited creditor shall receive dividends from property located in this state only upon the balance of the claim after deducting the amount of the benefit.

(3) If the family exemptions, allowances, prior charges, and claims of the entire estate exceed the total value of the portions of the estate being administered in separate states and if this state is not the state of the decedent's last domicile, a claim allowed in this state shall be paid from property located in this state if that property is adequate for the purpose, and after that payment, the balance of that property shall be transferred to the domiciliary personal representative. If local property located in this state is not sufficient to pay all claims allowed in this state, that property shall be marshaled so that each claim allowed in this state shall be paid its proportion as far as possible, after taking into account all dividends on claims allowed in this state from property in other jurisdictions.

## PART 9

### SPECIAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO DISTRIBUTION

Sec. 3901. In the absence of administration, the decedent's heirs and devisees are entitled to the estate in accordance with the terms of a probated will or the laws of intestate succession. A devisee may establish title by the probated will to devised property. An individual entitled to property by homestead allowance, exemption, or intestacy may establish title to the property by proof of the decedent's ownership, the decedent's death, and the individual's relationship to the decedent. A successor takes subject to charges for administration, including the creditors' claims and the surviving spouse's and dependent children's allowances, and subject to the rights of others resulting from abatement, retainer, advancement, or redemption.

Sec. 3902. (1) Subject to subsection (2) and except as provided in connection with the share of the surviving spouse who elects to take an elective share, distributees' shares abate, without a preference or priority between real and personal property, in the following order:

- (a) Property not disposed of by the will.
- (b) Residuary devisees.
- (c) General devisees.
- (d) Specific devisees.

(2) For purposes of abatement, a general devise charged on specific property is a specific devise to the extent of the value of that specific property and, upon the failure or insufficiency of the property on which the devise is charged, a general devise to the extent of the failure or insufficiency. Abatement within each classification is in proportion to the amount of property each beneficiary would have received if full distribution of the property had been made in accordance with the terms of the will.

(3) If the will expresses a different order of abatement, the will controls. If the testamentary plan or the devise's express or implied purpose would be defeated by the order of abatement stated in subsection (1), the distributees' shares abate as found necessary to give effect to the testator's intention.

(4) If the subject of a preferred devise is sold or used incident to administration, abatement shall be achieved by appropriate adjustments in, or contribution from, other interests in the remaining assets.

Sec. 3903. The amount of a successor's noncontingent indebtedness to the estate if due, or its present value if not due, shall be offset against the successor's interest. However, the successor has the benefit of a defense that would be available to the successor in a direct proceeding for recovery of the debt.

Sec. 3904. Unless a contrary intent is indicated by the will, a general pecuniary devise bears interest at the legal rate beginning 1 year after the first appointment of a personal representative until payment.

Sec. 3905. In accordance with section 2518, a provision in a will purporting to penalize an interested person for contesting the will or instituting another proceeding relating to the estate shall not be given effect if probable cause exists for instituting a proceeding contesting the will or another proceeding relating to the estate.

Sec. 3906. (1) Unless the will indicates a contrary intention, the distributable property of a decedent's estate shall be distributed in kind to the extent possible through application of the following provisions:

(a) A specific devisee is entitled to distribution of the property devised to him or her, and a spouse or child who selects particular estate property as provided in section 2404 shall receive the property selected.

(b) A homestead or family allowance, or devise of a stated sum of money, may be satisfied in kind provided all of the following are true:

- (i) The person entitled to the payment does not demand payment in cash.
- (ii) The property distributed in kind is valued at fair market value as of its distribution date.
- (iii) A residuary devisee does not request that the property in question remain a part of the estate residue.

(c) The residuary estate may be distributed in any equitable manner.

(2) Property described in subsection (1)(b) shall be valued in accordance with the following:

(a) A security regularly traded on recognized exchanges, if distributed in kind, is valued at the price for the last sale of like securities traded on the business day before distribution or, if there was no sale on that day, at the median between amounts bid and offered at the close of that day.

(b) Property consisting of money owed the decedent or the estate by a solvent debtor as to which there is no known dispute or defense is valued at the amount due with accrued interest or discounted to the distribution date.

(c) Property that does not have a readily ascertainable value is valued as of a date not more than 28 days before the distribution date, if otherwise reasonable.

(d) For purposes of facilitating distribution, the personal representative may ascertain property value as of the time of the proposed distribution in any reasonable way, including the employment of qualified appraisers, even if the property may have been previously appraised.

Sec. 3907. (1) This section governs a distribution in kind in satisfaction, wholly or partly, of a pecuniary bequest or transfer in trust of a pecuniary amount.

(2) Whether a devise or transfer in trust is pecuniary in character depends upon the testator's or settlor's intention.

(3) If the fiduciary elects to satisfy wholly or partly in kind a pecuniary devise or transfer in trust of a pecuniary amount, unless the governing instrument otherwise expressly provides, the property the fiduciary selects for that purpose shall be valued at its value on the distribution date.

(4) If a will or a trust agreement requires the personal representative or trustee to value the property the fiduciary selects for distribution as of a date other than the distribution date, unless the governing instrument otherwise expressly provides, the property selected to satisfy the pecuniary devise or transfer in trust, together with any cash distributed, shall have an aggregate value on the distribution date amounting to not less than, and to the extent practicable to not more than, the amount of the devise or transfer in trust as stated in, or determined by, the formula stated in the governing instrument.

(5) As used in this section, "pecuniary bequest" and "transfer in trust of a pecuniary amount" mean a devise in a will or a transfer under a trust agreement to, or for the benefit of, the testator's or settlor's spouse of a specific amount of money which amount is either expressly stated in the instrument or determinable by means of a formula that is stated in the instrument.

Sec. 3908. After the probable charges against the estate are known, the personal representative may mail or deliver a proposal for distribution to all persons who have a right to object to the proposed distribution. The right of a distributee to object to the proposed distribution on the basis of the kind or value of property the distributee is to receive, if not waived earlier in writing, terminates if the distributee fails to object in a writing received by the personal representative within 28 days after mailing or delivery of the proposal.

Sec. 3909. If distribution in kind is made, the personal representative shall execute an instrument or deed of distribution assigning, transferring, or releasing the property to the distributee as evidence of the distributee's title to the property.

Sec. 3910. Proof that a distributee has received an instrument or deed of distribution of property in kind, or payment in distribution, from a personal representative is conclusive evidence that the distributee has succeeded to the interest of the estate in the distributed property, as against all persons interested in the estate, except that the personal representative may recover the property or its value if the distribution was improper.

Sec. 3911. Unless the distribution or payment no longer can be questioned because of adjudication, estoppel, or limitation, a distributee of property that is improperly distributed or paid, or a claimant that is improperly paid, is liable to return the property improperly received and its income since distribution if the recipient has the property. If the recipient does not have the property, then the recipient is liable to return the value as of the disposition date of the property improperly received and its income and gain received by the recipient.

Sec. 3912. (1) If property distributed in kind or a security interest in that property is acquired for value by a purchaser from or lender to a distributee who has received an instrument or deed of distribution from the personal representative, or is so acquired by a purchaser from or lender to a transferee from such a distributee, the purchaser or lender takes title free of rights of an interested person in the estate and incurs no personal liability to the estate, or to an interested person, whether or not the distribution was proper or supported by court order or the personal representative's authority was terminated before execution of the instrument or deed.

(2) This section protects a purchaser from or lender to a distributee who, as personal representative, has executed a deed of distribution to himself or herself, as well as a purchaser from or lender to another distributee or his or her transferee. To be protected under this section, a purchaser or lender does not need to inquire whether a personal representative acted properly making the distribution in kind, even if the personal representative and the distributee are the same person, or whether the authority of the personal representative had terminated before the distribution.

(3) A recorded instrument described in this section on which an exemption listed in section 5 of 1966 PA 135, MCL 207.505, or section 6 of the state real estate transfer tax act, 1993 PA 330, MCL 207.526, is not noted is prima facie evidence that the transfer is made for value. Notwithstanding this section, a purchaser or lender takes title free of the lien for Michigan estate tax only to the extent provided by section 43 of the Michigan estate tax act, 1899 PA 188, MCL 205.243.

Sec. 3913. If 2 or more heirs or devisees are entitled to distribution of an undivided interest in estate property, the personal representative or 1 or more of the heirs or devisees may petition the court to make partition before the formal or informal closing of the estate. After notice to the interested heirs or devisees, the court shall partition the property in the same manner as provided by law for a civil action of partition. The court may direct the personal representative to sell property that cannot be partitioned without prejudice to the owners and that cannot conveniently be allotted to 1 party.

Sec. 3914. (1) Subject to the rights of creditors and taxing authorities, competent successors may agree among themselves to alter the interests, shares, or amounts to which they are entitled under the will of the decedent, or under the laws of intestacy, in any way that they provide in a written agreement executed by all who are affected by its provisions. If there is, or may be, an interested person to the agreement who is a minor or incapacitated individual or if there is an inalienable estate or future contingent interest, after notice to the representative of the individual or interest as provided by supreme court rule, the court having jurisdiction of the matter may, if the agreement is made in good faith and appears just and reasonable for the individual or interest, direct the representative of the individual or interest to sign and enter into the agreement. The personal representative shall abide by the agreement's terms subject to the personal representative's obligation to administer the estate for the benefit of creditors, to pay all taxes and costs of administration, and to carry out the fiduciary office's responsibilities for the benefit of a successor of the decedent who is not a party.

(2) A personal representative of a decedent's estate is not required to see to the performance of a trust if the trustee of the trust is another person who is willing to accept the trust. Accordingly, a trustee of a testamentary trust is a successor for the purposes of this section. Nothing in this section relieves a trustee of a duty owed to a trust beneficiary.

Sec. 3915. (1) Before distributing to a trustee, the personal representative may require that the trust be registered if the state in which it is to be administered provides for registration and that the trustee inform the beneficiaries as provided in section 7303.

(2) If the trust instrument does not excuse the trustee from giving bond, the personal representative may petition the appropriate court to require that the trustee post bond if the personal representative apprehends that distribution might jeopardize the interests of persons who are not able to protect themselves, and the personal representative may withhold distribution until the court acts.

(3) An inference of negligence on the personal representative's part shall not be drawn from failure to exercise the authority conferred by subsections (1) and (2).

(4) If it becomes necessary or convenient in the settlement or distribution of a decedent's estate to appoint a trustee to take charge of or invest and distribute a portion of the estate, the court may appoint a trustee upon the request of the personal representative or another interested person.

Sec. 3916. (1) In exchange for suitable receipts and following a court order if the administration is supervised, a fiduciary making final distribution shall deposit with the county treasurer the money or personal property the fiduciary has that belongs to any of the following:

(a) An heir, devisee, trust beneficiary, or claimant whose whereabouts the fiduciary cannot ascertain after diligent inquiry.

(b) An heir, devisee, trust beneficiary, or claimant who declines to accept the money awarded to the person.

(c) A person if the right of the person is the subject of appeal from an order of the court.

(2) As an alternative to deposit with the county treasurer under subsection (1), if the amount involved for a person described under subsection (1)(a) or (b) is \$250.00 or less, the fiduciary may distribute the amount as part of the residue of the decedent's estate or to those entitled to the trust fund balance. If the fiduciary has property other than money that belongs to a person described in subsection (1)(a) or (b), the fiduciary may sell the property for the purpose of reducing it to money to be deposited with the county treasurer.

(3) The fiduciary shall retain or file the county treasurer's receipt for property deposited under this section in the same fashion as though the fiduciary paid or delivered the money or property to, and received a receipt from, the heir, devisee, trust beneficiary, or claimant.

Sec. 3917. (1) The county treasurer shall receive and safely keep money deposited under authority of this act in a separate fund and keep a separate account for each distributee or claim. The county treasurer shall deposit the money in a county depository at the current rate of interest, shall pay out from the fund upon the order of the court, and shall turn over any surplus left in the treasurer's hands at the termination of the treasurer's term of office to the treasurer's successor.

(2) At the commencement of each term of office and before receiving money under authority of this act, the county treasurer shall give a bond running to the judge and the judge's successor in office, with 2 or more sufficient sureties approved by the court. The bond shall be in the amount the judge directs, conditioned that the county treasurer and his or her deputy shall do all of the following:

(a) Pay out the money only on court order, whether the money was turned over to the treasurer by his or her predecessor in office, or deposited with the treasurer during the term that he or she is then commencing or during a prior term of office.

(b) At the end of each year, render to the court, and to the county board of commissioners, a true account of that money.

(c) Deliver over to his or her successor in office the money deposited under authority of this act and books, papers, and other records relating to that money.

(3) The court may at any time require the county treasurer to give new or additional bond, as the court considers necessary, conditioned as provided in subsection (2). A bond deposited by the county treasurer and his or her sureties on the bond are discharged from further liability under the bond upon the filing of a new bond by a successor to the office who is named on the new bond, unless the county treasurer fails to account for any money as required in this article, or fails to turn that money over to the successor in office.

(4) For the care of the fund received under authority of this act, the county treasurer may take 1% from the different amounts paid out under court order unless the amount paid out to a single individual exceeds \$1,000.00, in which case the county treasurer shall take \$10.00 plus 1/2 of 1% of the excess of the amount over \$1,000.00.

(5) A person entitled to the money may petition the court having jurisdiction for an order directing the county treasurer to pay over money that is deposited with the county treasurer. Upon receiving the petition, the court shall make an order as to notice of the hearing as the court considers proper. Upon satisfactory proof being made to the court of the claimant's right to the money, the court shall order the county treasurer to pay the money to the claimant.

(6) If a person does not make a claim to funds deposited by a fiduciary before the expiration of 3 years after the deposit date, the money that would be distributed under this section to the person, if alive, less expenses, shall be distributed by court order to each person who would be entitled to the money if the person were deceased, and the person is forever barred from all claim or right to the money.

(7) An action on the bond given by the county treasurer under this section may be started in the name of the state, for the use and benefit of anyone interested, in the same manner and with the same effect as allowed by law upon fiduciary bonds.

Sec. 3918. (1) A personal representative may discharge the personal representative's obligation to distribute to an individual under legal disability by distributing in a manner expressly provided in the will.

(2) Unless contrary to an express provision in the will, the personal representative may discharge the personal representative's obligation to distribute to an individual under legal disability as authorized by section 5102 or another statute. If the personal representative knows that a conservator has been appointed for an individual or that a proceeding for appointment of a conservator for the individual is pending, the personal representative is authorized to distribute only to the conservator. If the personal representative knows that a guardian of the estate of an individual with a developmental disability has been appointed under the mental health code, 1974 PA 258, MCL 330.1001 to 330.2106, or that a proceeding for appointment of a guardian of the estate for the individual with the developmental disability is pending, the personal representative is authorized to distribute only to the guardian of the estate.

(3) If the heir or devisee is under legal disability other than minority, the personal representative is authorized to distribute to any of the following:

(a) A trustee appointed by the court under section 3915(4).

(b) An attorney in fact who has authority under a power of attorney to receive property for that person.

(c) The spouse, parent, or other close relative with whom the individual under legal disability resides if both of the following are true:

(i) A conservator has not been appointed for the individual.

(ii) The distribution is in amounts not exceeding \$5,000.00 a year or property not exceeding \$5,000.00 in value, unless the court authorizes a higher amount or value.

(4) A person receiving money or property for an individual under legal disability shall use the money or property only for that individual's support and for reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses for goods and services necessary for that individual's support. Excess money and property shall be preserved for the individual's future support. The personal representative is not responsible for the proper use of money or property by the recipient if distribution is made under the authority of this section.

Sec. 3919. (1) If there is a personal representative of the decedent's domicile willing to receive it, a nonresident decedent's estate being administered by a personal representative appointed in this state shall be distributed to the domiciliary personal representative for the benefit of the decedent's successors unless any of the following apply:

(a) By virtue of the decedent's will, if any, and applicable choice of law rules, the successors are identified under the law of this state without reference to the law of the decedent's domicile.

(b) After reasonable inquiry, this state's personal representative is unaware of the existence or identity of a domiciliary personal representative.

(c) The court orders otherwise in a proceeding for a closing order under section 3951 or incident to the closing of a supervised administration.

(2) If subsection (1) is not applicable to an estate, distribution of the decedent's estate shall be made in accordance with the other provisions of this article.

Sec. 3920. (1) An estate, inheritance, or other death tax levied or assessed under the laws of this or another state, political subdivision, or country or under a United States revenue act concerning property included in the gross estate under the law, but excluding taxes for which sources of payment are provided within sections 2206, 2207, 2207A, 2207B, and 2603 of the internal revenue code, shall be apportioned in the following manner:

(a) If a part of the property concerning which the tax is levied or assessed passed under a will, then, unless the governing instrument directs otherwise, the tax shall be charged as follows:

(i) If any portion of that property passed under the will as a devise to be satisfied by reference to a specific property or type of property, fund, money, or other nonresiduary form, the net amount of the tax attributable to that portion shall be charged to and paid from the residuary estate without requiring contribution from a person receiving or benefiting from the nonresiduary interest and without apportionment among the residuary beneficiaries. If the residuary estate is insufficient to pay the tax attributable to all nonresiduary interests, the balance of the tax shall be apportioned pro rata among the recipients of those interests generating the tax based on the value of those interests.

(ii) The net amount of a tax attributable to the residuary estate shall be apportioned pro rata among the residuary beneficiaries based on the value of the residuary interests generating the tax. If a residuary interest is a temporary interest, the tax attributable to it shall be charged to principal and not apportioned between temporary and remainder interests.

(b) If a part of the property concerning which the tax is levied or assessed is held under the terms of an inter vivos trust, then, unless the governing instrument directs otherwise, the tax shall be charged as follows:

(i) If a portion of the trust is directed to pass or to be held in further trust by reference to a specific property or type of property, fund, money, or other nonresiduary form, the net amount of the tax attributable to that portion shall be charged to and paid from the principal of the residuary share of the trust without requiring contribution from a person receiving or benefiting from the nonresiduary interest and without apportionment among the residuary beneficiaries. If the residuary share of the trust is insufficient to pay the tax attributable to all nonresiduary interests, the balance of the tax shall be apportioned pro rata among the recipients of those interests generating the tax based on the value of those interests.

(ii) The net amount of tax attributable to the residuary share of the trust shall be charged as follows:

(A) The net amount of tax attributable to each residuary temporary interest shall be charged to that portion of residuary principal that supports the temporary interest without apportionment.

(B) The net amount of tax attributable to the balance of the residuary share shall be apportioned pro rata among the residuary beneficiaries by charge to the principal of their interest based on the value of the residuary interests.

(c) Except as otherwise directed by the governing instrument, tax liability remaining after the application of subdivisions (a) and (b), including, but not limited to, a tax imposed with respect to property passing by survivorship, to property passing by intestacy, and to an annuity not created under a will or an inter vivos trust, shall be apportioned pro rata among, and paid by, the recipients and beneficiaries of the properties or interests, based on the value of the properties and interests generating the tax. Except as otherwise directed by the governing instrument, with respect to a temporary interest not in trust, the amount charged to the recipients or beneficiaries shall not be apportioned

between temporary and remainder interests, but shall be charged to and paid out of the principal of the property or fund.

(2) As used in this section and sections 3921 to 3923:

(a) "Governing instrument" means a will, trust agreement, or other document that controls the devolution of property at death with respect to which the tax is being levied.

(b) "Net estate" means the gross estate, as defined by the estate, inheritance, or death tax law of the particular state, country, or political subdivision whose tax is being apportioned, less the deductions allowed.

(c) "Temporary interest" means an interest in income or an estate for a specific period of time, for life, or for some other period controlled by reference to extrinsic events.

(d) "Value" means the pecuniary worth of the interest involved as finally determined for purposes of the tax then under consideration, without regard to a diminution of the interest by reason of the charge of a part of the tax.

Sec. 3921. (1) Unless specific directions to that effect are contained in the governing instrument under which the fiduciary is acting, section 3920 shall not be construed to require the personal representative or other concerned fiduciary to pay an estate, inheritance, or other death tax levied or assessed by a foreign country.

(2) The net amount of tax attributable to the interests encompassed by subdivision (a), subdivision (b), or subdivision (c) of section 3920(1) considered separately shall be the part of the net amount of tax as finally determined, with any interest and penalties on that amount, as the value of the interests generating the tax and included in the subdivision bears to the amount of the net estate. However, for an inheritance or similar tax, the tax that is imposed on each beneficiary's interest, as determined under the law of the state, country, or political subdivision then under consideration, shall be considered the tax attributable to the interest. In prorating taxes within each subdivision of section 3920(1) based on the value of those interests generating the tax, each separate tax that an interest may incur shall be prorated in the same manner. In determining the proportion that each interest bears to the total value of all interests generating each tax, only interests generating that particular tax are considered. Property or interests generating a tax do not include property or interests, whether passing under a will, trust, or otherwise, to the extent the property or interest is exempt or is initially deductible from the gross estate, without regard to any subsequent diminution of the deduction by reason of the charge of a part of the tax to the property or interest.

(3) A direction in a governing instrument for tax, allocation, and payment in a manner different from that provided in sections 3920 to 3923 is effective to allocate and pay tax only from property whose devolution is subject to that instrument's control and with respect to which the tax is being levied. However, a direction to allocate and pay tax contained in a will is effective to allocate and pay tax even if the will does not control the devolution of property at death with respect to which the tax is being levied, including a direction in a will to allocate and pay tax from a trust of which the testator was the settlor and that was revocable by the settlor, or would have been revocable if the settlor was not incapacitated, until the settlor's death. If there is a conflict between directions in a will to allocate and pay tax and the terms of another governing instrument, the directions in the will control.

(4) A tax apportionment based on the net estate under sections 3920 to 3923 shall be determined without regard to a diminution in deductions resulting from the charge of a part of the tax to a deductible interest.

Sec. 3922. (1) Unless the governing instrument provides otherwise, if a credit is given under the United States estate tax laws for a tax paid to another country or a political subdivision, the credit shall be apportioned under sections 3920 to 3923 among the recipients or interests finally charged with the payment of the foreign tax in reduction of a United States estate tax chargeable to the recipients or interests, whether or not the United States estate tax is attributable to the foreign interests. An excess of the credit shall be applied in reduction of the part of United States estate tax chargeable to the residue, and an excess of the credit over the United States estate tax chargeable to the residue shall be apportioned pro rata among those persons or interests finally charged with the balance of the payment of United States estate tax.

(2) Unless otherwise directed by the governing instrument, the personal representative shall pay the tax out of the estate, or if a personal representative is not acting under appointment, a person receiving or holding an interest generating the tax shall pay the tax. In a case in which property required to be included in the gross estate does not come into the personal representative's possession, the personal representative shall recover from the following persons the proportionate amount of tax chargeable to them under this act:

(a) From the fiduciary in possession of the trust principal or of property subject to the power of appointment in cases in which inter vivos trust property or property subject to a power of appointment is included in the gross estate.

(b) In all other cases, from the recipients or beneficiaries of property or interests with respect to which the tax is levied or assessed.

(3) Subsection (2) does not authorize the recovery of taxes from a company issuing insurance included in the gross estate, or from a bank, trust company, savings and loan association, or similar institution with respect to an account in



the name of the decedent and another person that passed by operation of law on the decedent's death. If the fiduciary brings an action to recover a share of tax apportioned to an interest not within the fiduciary's control, the judgment that the fiduciary obtains may include costs and reasonable attorney fees.

(4) A personal representative or other fiduciary is not required to transfer property until the amount of a tax due from the transferee is paid or, if apportionment of the tax has not been determined, until adequate security is furnished for the payment. The fiduciary is not required to distribute property that the fiduciary reasonably anticipates may be necessary to pay a state or federal tax and related interest or penalties.

(5) On petition of the person required to pay a tax, the probate court having jurisdiction over the administration of a decedent's estate may determine the apportionment of the tax. If there are no probate proceedings, on the petition of a person required to pay a tax, the probate court of the county where the decedent was domiciled at death shall determine the apportionment of the tax.

Sec. 3923. (1) If the probate court finds that it is inequitable to apportion interest and penalties in the manner provided in sections 3920 to 3922 because of special circumstances, the court may direct apportionment in the manner it finds equitable.

(2) If the probate court finds that the assessment of penalties and interest assessed in relation to a tax is due to delay caused by the negligence of the fiduciary, the court may charge the fiduciary with the amount of the assessed penalties and interest.

(3) In an action or proceeding to recover from a person interested in the estate the amount of a tax apportioned to the person in accordance with this act, the court's determination in respect to the apportionment is prima facie correct.

Sec. 3924. (1) For the purpose of settling a claim as to which an action is not pending in another court for damages for wrongful death or for a claim existing under this state's laws relating to the survival of actions, if a personal representative petitions the court in writing asking leave to settle the claim and after notice to all persons who may be entitled to damages as provided in section 2922 of the revised judicature act of 1961, being section 600.2922 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, the court may conduct a hearing and approve or reject the settlement.

(2) The proceeds of a court settlement of a cause of action for wrongful death shall be distributed in accordance with all of the following:

(a) The personal representative shall file with the court a petition for authority to distribute the proceeds. Upon the filing of the petition, the court shall order a hearing.

(b) Unless waived, notice of hearing must be given to all persons who may be entitled to damages as provided in section 2922 of the revised judicature act of 1961. A notice under this subdivision must contain both of the following:

(i) The name and address of the personal representative and of the personal representative's attorney.

(ii) A statement that, to recover damages under this section, the person who may be entitled to damages must present a claim for damages to the personal representative on or before the date set for hearing on the petition for distribution of the proceeds, and that failure to present a claim for damages within the time provided bars the person from making a claim to any of the proceeds.

(c) If an interested person is a minor, disappeared person, or incapacitated individual for whom a fiduciary is not appointed, the court shall first appoint a fiduciary or guardian ad litem, and the notice as provided in subdivision (b) shall be given to the fiduciary or guardian ad litem.

(d) After a hearing on the personal representative's petition, the court shall order payment from the proceeds of the decedent's reasonable medical, hospital, funeral, and burial expenses for which the estate is liable. The proceeds shall not be applied to the payment of any other charges against the decedent's estate. The court shall then enter an order distributing the proceeds to those persons designated in section 2922 of the revised judicature act of 1961 who suffered damages and to the decedent's estate for compensation for conscious pain and suffering, if any, in the amount the court considers fair and equitable considering the relative damages sustained by each of the persons and the decedent's estate.

(e) If none of the persons entitled to the proceeds is a minor, disappeared person, or incapacitated individual and all of the persons entitled to the proceeds execute a sworn stipulation or agreement in writing in which each person's portion of the proceeds is specified, the court order shall be entered in accordance with the stipulation or agreement.

(f) A person who may be entitled to damages under this section must present a claim for damages to the personal representative on or before the date set for hearing on the petition for distribution of the proceeds. Failure to present a claim for damages within the time provided by this section bars the person from making a claim to any of the proceeds.

(g) If a claim for wrongful death is pending in another court, the procedures prescribed in section 2922 of the revised judicature act of 1961 are applicable to the distribution of proceeds of a settlement or judgment.

PART 10  
CLOSING ESTATES

Sec. 3951. (1) If the personal representative does not complete estate administration within 1 year after the original appointment by petitioning for a settlement order under section 3952 or 3953 or by filing a sworn statement under section 3954, the personal representative shall file with the court and send to all interested persons a notice that the estate remains under administration and specifying the reason for continuation of administration. This notice of continued administration must be filed not later than 28 days after the anniversary of the personal representative's appointment and, if administration remains incomplete, not later than 28 days after each subsequent anniversary of the appointment.

(2) If the notice described in subsection (1) is not filed, an interested person may petition the court for a hearing on the necessity for continued administration or petition for a settlement order under either section 3952 or 3953. In response to such a petition, the court may issue appropriate orders to assure prompt estate settlement.

(3) If the notice described in subsection (1) is not filed and an interested person's petition is not pending, the court may notify the personal representative and all interested persons that the court will close the estate administration and terminate the personal representative's authority within 63 days unless within that time period any of the following occur:

(a) The personal representative files a notice under subsection (1), a petition for settlement under either section 3952 or 3953, or a sworn statement under section 3954.

(b) An interested person files a petition requesting a hearing on the necessity for continued administration or a petition for an order of settlement under either section 3952 or 3953.

Sec. 3952. (1) A personal representative or an interested person may petition for an order of complete estate settlement. The personal representative may petition at any time, and an interested person may petition after 1 year from the original personal representative's appointment. However, the court shall not accept a petition under this section until the time expires for presenting a claim that arises before the decedent's death.

(2) A petition under this section may request the court to determine testacy, if not previously determined, to consider the final account, to compel or approve an accounting and distribution, to construe a will or determine heirs, and to adjudicate the estate's final settlement and distribution. After notice to all interested persons and a hearing, the court may enter an order or orders, on appropriate conditions, determining the persons entitled to distribution of the estate, and as circumstances require, approving settlement, directing or approving estate distribution, and discharging the personal representative from further claim or demand of an interested person.

(3) If 1 or more heirs or devisees were omitted as parties in, or were not given notice of, a previous formal testacy proceeding, on proper petition for an order of complete estate settlement under this section and after notice to the omitted or unnotified persons and other interested persons determined to be interested on the assumption that the previous order concerning testacy is conclusive as to those given notice of the earlier proceeding, the court may determine testacy as it affects the omitted persons, and confirm or alter the previous testacy order as it affects all interested persons as appropriate in the light of the new proofs. In the absence of objection by an omitted or unnotified person, evidence received in the original testacy proceeding constitutes prima facie proof of due execution of a will previously admitted to probate, or of the fact that the decedent left no valid will if the prior proceeding determined this fact.

Sec. 3953. (1) A personal representative administering an estate under an informally probated will or a devisee under an informally probated will may petition for a settlement order for the estate that does not adjudicate the decedent's testacy status. The personal representative may petition at any time, and a devisee may petition after 1 year after the original personal representative's appointment. However, the court shall not accept a petition under this section until the time expires for presenting a claim that arises before the decedent's death.

(2) A petition under this section may request the court to consider the final account, to compel or approve an accounting and distribution, to construe the will, or to adjudicate the estate's final settlement and distribution. After notice to all devisees and the personal representative and a hearing, the court may enter appropriate orders, on appropriate conditions, determining the persons entitled to distribution of the estate under the will, and, as circumstances require, approving settlement, directing or approving estate distribution, and discharging the personal representative from further claim or demand of a devisee who is a party to the proceeding and those the devisee represents. If it appears that a part of the estate is intestate, the proceedings shall be dismissed or amendments made to meet the provisions of section 3952.

Sec. 3954. (1) Unless prohibited by court order and except for an estate being administered in a supervised administration proceeding, a personal representative may close an estate by filing with the court, no earlier than 5

months after the date of a general personal representative's original appointment, a sworn statement stating that the personal representative or a previous personal representative has done all of the following:

(a) Determined that notice was published and the time limited for presentation of creditors claims has expired.

(b) Fully administered the decedent's estate by making payment, settlement, or other disposition of all claims that were presented, of administration and estate expenses, and of estate, inheritance, and other death taxes, except as specified in the statement, including distribution of the estate property to the persons entitled. If a claim remains undischarged, the statement shall state whether the personal representative distributed the estate subject to possible liability with the distributee's agreement or shall state in detail other arrangements that have been made to accommodate outstanding liabilities.

(c) Sent a copy of the statement to all estate distributees and to all creditors or other claimants of whom the personal representative is aware whose claims are neither paid nor barred.

(d) Furnished a full account in writing of the personal representative's administration to the distributees whose interests are affected by the administration. The account shall clearly state the amount paid out of the estate in fiduciary fees, attorney fees, and other professional fees.

(2) If a proceeding involving the personal representative is not pending in the court 1 year after the closing statement is filed, the personal representative's appointment terminates.

Sec. 3955. After estate property is distributed and subject to section 3957, an undischarged claim not barred may be prosecuted in a proceeding against 1 or more distributees. A distributee is not liable to a claimant for an amount received as exempt property or as a homestead or family allowance, or for an amount in excess of the value of the distributee's distribution as of the time of distribution. As between distributees, each shall bear the cost of satisfaction of an unbarred claim as if the claim had been satisfied in the course of administration. If a distributee fails to notify other distributees of the demand made upon the distributee by the claimant in sufficient time to permit them to join in a proceeding in which the claim is asserted, the distributee loses the right of contribution against other distributees.

Sec. 3956. Unless previously barred by adjudication and except as provided in the closing statement, the right of a successor or creditor whose claim is not otherwise barred against the personal representative for breach of fiduciary duty is barred unless a proceeding to assert the claim is commenced within 6 months after the filing of the closing statement. The right barred under this section does not include the right to recover from a personal representative for fraud, misrepresentation, or inadequate disclosure related to the settlement of the decedent's estate.

Sec. 3957. Unless previously adjudicated in a formal testacy proceeding or in a proceeding settling a personal representative's accounts, or otherwise barred, a claimant's claim to recover from a distributee who is liable to pay the claim and the right of an heir or devisee, or of a successor personal representative acting in their behalf, to recover property improperly distributed or its value from a distributee are forever barred at the later of 3 years after the decedent's death or 1 year after the time of the property's distribution. However, all claims of the decedent's creditors are barred in accordance with the time periods specified in section 3803. This section does not bar an action to recover property or value received as a result of fraud.

Sec. 3958. If an objection to the closing statement is not filed within 28 days after the filing date, the personal representative, the personal representative's sureties, or a successor of either is entitled to receive a certificate from the register that the personal representative appears to have fully administered the estate in question. The certificate is evidence of discharge of a lien on property given to secure the personal representative's obligation in lieu of bond or a surety. The certificate does not preclude action against the personal representative or the surety.

Sec. 3959. If estate property is discovered after an estate is settled and either the personal representative is discharged or 1 year has expired after a closing statement is filed, or if there is other good cause to reopen a previously administered estate, including an estate administratively closed, upon petition of an interested person and notice as the court directs, the court may appoint the same or a successor personal representative to administer the subsequently discovered estate. If a new appointment is made, unless the court orders otherwise, the provisions of this act apply as appropriate. A claim previously barred shall not be asserted in the subsequent administration.

## PART 11

### COLLECTION OF PERSONAL PROPERTY BY SWORN STATEMENT, SMALL ESTATES, AND SUMMARY ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS

Sec. 3981. A hospital, convalescent or nursing home, morgue, or law enforcement agency holding \$500.00 or less and wearing apparel of a decedent may deliver the money and wearing apparel to an individual furnishing identification and a sworn statement that the individual is the decedent's spouse, child, or parent and that there is no application or

petition pending for administration of the decedent's estate. The hospital, home, morgue, or law enforcement agency making the delivery is released to the same extent as if delivery were made to a legally qualified personal representative of the decedent's estate and is not required to see to the property's disposition. The individual to whom delivery is made is answerable for the property to a person with a prior right and accountable to a personal representative of the decedent's estate appointed after the delivery.

Sec. 3982. (1) Upon a showing of evidence, satisfactory to the court, of payment of the expenses for the decedent's funeral and burial and if the balance of a decedent's gross estate consists of property of the value of \$15,000.00 or less, the court may order that the property be turned over to the surviving spouse or, if there is not a spouse, to the decedent's heirs.

(2) Upon a showing of evidence, satisfactory to the court, that the decedent's funeral or burial expenses are unpaid or were paid by a person other than the estate, and if the balance of the gross estate after payment of the expenses would consist of property of the value of \$15,000.00 or less, the court shall order that the property be first used to pay the unpaid funeral and burial expenses, or to reimburse the person that paid those expenses, and may order that the balance be turned over to the surviving spouse or, if there is not a spouse, to the decedent's heirs.

(3) Other than a surviving spouse who qualifies for allowances under this act or the decedent's minor children, an heir who receives property through an order under this section is responsible, for 63 days after the date of the order, for any unsatisfied debt of the decedent up to the value of the property received through the order. The court shall state in the order the condition on the distribution of property provided by this subsection.

(4) If a decedent's estate meets the criteria for using the procedure under either this section or section 3983 and if a person is authorized by this act to use either procedure, a person, other than the court, shall not require the authorized person to use 1 procedure rather than the other.

(5) A dollar amount prescribed by this section shall be adjusted as provided in section 1210.

Sec. 3983. (1) After 28 days after a decedent's death, a person indebted to the decedent or having possession of tangible personal property or an instrument evidencing a debt, obligation, stock, or chose in action belonging to the decedent shall pay the indebtedness or deliver the tangible personal property or the instrument to a person claiming to be the decedent's successor upon being presented with the decedent's death certificate and a sworn statement made by or on behalf of the successor stating all of the following:

(a) The estate does not include real property and the value of the entire estate, wherever located, net of liens and encumbrances, does not exceed \$15,000.00, adjusted as provided in section 1210.

(b) Twenty-eight days have elapsed since the decedent's death.

(c) An application or petition for the appointment of a personal representative is not pending or has not been granted in any jurisdiction.

(d) The claiming successor is entitled to payment or delivery of the property.

(e) The name and address of each other person that is entitled to a share of the property and the portion to which each is entitled.

(2) A transfer agent of a security shall change the registered ownership on the books of a corporation from the decedent to the successor or successors upon the presentation of a sworn statement as provided in subsection (1).

(3) The state court administrative office shall develop and make available a standardized form for use as a sworn statement that can be used for the procedure authorized under subsection (1). The form shall include a notice that a false statement may subject the person swearing to the statement to prosecution for perjury.

Sec. 3984. (1) A person paying, delivering, transferring, or issuing personal property or the evidence of personal property under a sworn statement as provided in section 3983 is discharged and released to the same extent as if the person dealt with the decedent's personal representative. The person is not required to see to the application of the personal property or evidence of the application, or to inquire into the truth of a statement in the sworn statement.

(2) If a person to whom a sworn statement is delivered under section 3983 refuses to pay, deliver, transfer, or issue personal property or evidence of personal property, the property may be recovered or its payment, delivery, transfer, or issuance compelled upon proof of a person's right to the property in a proceeding brought for the purpose by or on behalf of the persons entitled to the property. A person to whom payment, delivery, transfer, or issuance is made is answerable and accountable for the property to a personal representative of the estate or to another person having a superior right.

Sec. 3987. If it appears from the inventory and appraisal that the value of the entire estate, less liens and encumbrances, does not exceed homestead allowance, family allowance, exempt property, administration costs and expenses, reasonable funeral expenses, and reasonable, necessary medical and hospital expenses of the decedent's last illness, the personal representative, without giving notice to creditors, may immediately disburse and distribute the estate to the persons entitled to the estate and may file a closing statement as provided in section 3988.

Sec. 3988. (1) Unless prohibited by court order and except for an estate being administered by a supervised personal representative, a personal representative may close an estate administered under the summary procedures of section 3987 by filing with the court, at any time after disbursement and distribution of the estate, a sworn statement stating all of the following:

(a) To the best knowledge of the personal representative, the value of the entire estate, less liens and encumbrances, did not exceed homestead allowance, family allowance, exempt property, administration costs and expenses, reasonable funeral expenses, and reasonable, necessary medical and hospital expenses of the decedent's last illness.

(b) The personal representative has fully administered the estate by disbursing and distributing it to the persons entitled to the estate.

(c) The personal representative has sent a copy of the closing statement to all estate distributees and to all creditors or other claimants of whom the personal representative is aware whose claims are neither paid nor barred, and has furnished a full account in writing of the estate administration to the distributees whose interests are affected.

(2) The sworn statement filed under this section has the same effect as a sworn statement filed under section 3954. If an objection to the sworn statement is not filed within 28 days after the filing date, the register shall issue a certificate described in section 3958.

(3) If an action or proceeding involving the personal representative is not pending in the court 1 year after the closing statement is filed under this section, the personal representative's appointment terminates.

#### ARTICLE IV

#### FOREIGN PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES AND ANCILLARY ADMINISTRATION

#### PART 1

#### DEFINITIONS

Sec. 4101. As used in this article:

(a) "Local administration" means administration by a personal representative appointed in this state under an appointment proceeding described in article III.

(b) "Local personal representative" includes a personal representative appointed in this state under an appointment proceeding described in article III and excludes a foreign personal representative who acquires the power of a local personal representative under section 4203.

(c) "Resident creditor" means a person domiciled or doing business in this state that is, or could be, a claimant against a nonresident decedent's estate.

#### PART 2

#### POWERS OF FOREIGN PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Sec. 4201. At any time after the expiration of 63 days after a nonresident decedent's death, a person indebted to the nonresident decedent, or having possession or control of personal property or of an instrument evidencing a debt, obligation, stock, or chose in action belonging to the nonresident decedent, may pay the debt or deliver the personal property or the instrument to the domiciliary foreign personal representative of the nonresident decedent upon being presented with proof of the domiciliary personal representative's appointment and a sworn statement made by or on behalf of the representative stating all of the following:

(a) The date of the nonresident decedent's death.

(b) That local administration, or an application or petition for local administration, is not pending in this state.

(c) That the domiciliary foreign personal representative is entitled to payment or delivery.

Sec. 4202. (1) Payment or delivery made in good faith on the basis of proof of authority and a sworn statement as provided in section 4201 releases the debtor or person having possession of the personal property to the same extent as if payment or delivery is made to a local personal representative.

(2) Payment or delivery under section 4201 shall not be made if a resident creditor of the nonresident decedent notifies the debtor of the nonresident decedent or the person having possession of the personal property belonging to the nonresident decedent that the debt should not be paid nor the property delivered to the domiciliary foreign personal representative.

Sec. 4203. (1) If local administration, or an application or petition for local administration, is not pending in this state, a domiciliary foreign personal representative may file with a court in this state, in a county in which property belonging to the decedent is located, authenticated copies of the representative's appointment and of any official bond the representative has given.

(2) As to property in this state, a domiciliary foreign personal representative who complies with this section may exercise the power of a local personal representative, including, but not limited to, the execution and delivery of a deed under and in satisfaction of a land contract for the purchase of real property located in this state, a discharge of a mortgage, or a discharge of a security interest or financing statement or both, and may maintain an action or proceeding in this state subject to any conditions imposed upon nonresident parties generally.

Sec. 4204. (1) A domiciliary foreign personal representative's power under sections 4201 and 4203 shall be exercised only if estate administration or an application for administration is not pending in this state. An application or petition for local administration of the estate terminates the power of the foreign personal representative to act under section 4203, but the local court may allow the foreign personal representative to exercise limited powers to preserve the estate.

(2) A person who, before receiving actual notice of a pending local administration, changes his or her position in reliance upon a foreign personal representative's power shall not be prejudiced by reason of the application or petition for, or grant of, local administration. The local personal representative is subject to all duties and obligations that have accrued by virtue of the exercise of the powers by the foreign personal representative and may be substituted for the foreign personal representative in an action or proceeding in this state.

Sec. 4205. In respect to a nonresident decedent, article III governs all of the following:

(a) A proceeding in a court of this state for probate of the will, for appointment, removal, supervision, and discharge of the local personal representative, and for another order concerning the estate.

(b) The status, powers, duties, and liabilities of a local personal representative and a right of a claimant, purchaser, distributee, and another in regard to a local administration.

### PART 3

#### JURISDICTION OVER FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVES

Sec. 4301. (1) A foreign personal representative submits personally to the jurisdiction of the courts of this state in a proceeding relating to the estate by doing any of the following:

(a) Filing an authenticated copy of appointment as provided in section 4203.

(b) Receiving payment of money or taking delivery of personal property under section 4201.

(c) Doing an act as a personal representative in this state that would give the state jurisdiction over an individual.

(2) Jurisdiction under subsection (1)(b) is limited to the money or value of personal property collected.

Sec. 4302. In addition to jurisdiction conferred by section 4301, a foreign personal representative is subject to the jurisdiction of the courts of this state to the same extent that the representative's decedent was subject to that jurisdiction immediately before death.

Sec. 4303. (1) Service of process may be made upon the foreign personal representative by registered or certified mail, addressed to the representative's last reasonably ascertainable address, requesting a return receipt signed by addressee only. Notice by ordinary first-class mail is sufficient if registered or certified mail service to the addressee is unavailable. Service may be made upon a foreign personal representative in the manner in which service could have been made under other laws of this state on either the foreign personal representative or the representative's decedent immediately before death.

(2) If service is made upon a foreign personal representative as provided in subsection (1), the representative is allowed not less than 28 days within which to appear or respond.

### PART 4

#### JUDGMENTS AND PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Sec. 4401. An adjudication rendered in any jurisdiction in favor of or against a personal representative of the estate is as binding on the local personal representative as if the local personal representative were a party to the adjudication.

ARTICLE V  
PROTECTION OF AN INDIVIDUAL UNDER DISABILITY  
AND HIS OR HER PROPERTY

PART 1  
GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 5101. As used in parts 1 to 4 of this article:

(a) "Best interests of the minor" means the sum total of the following factors to be considered, evaluated, and determined by the court:

(i) The love, affection, and other emotional ties existing between the parties involved and the child.

(ii) The capacity and disposition of the parties involved to give the child love, affection, and guidance and to continue educating and raising the child in the child's religion or creed, if any.

(iii) The capacity and disposition of the parties involved to provide the child with food, clothing, medical care or other remedial care recognized and permitted under the laws of this state in place of medical care, and other material needs.

(iv) The length of time the child has lived in a stable, satisfactory environment, and the desirability of maintaining continuity.

(v) The permanence, as a family unit, of the existing or proposed custodial home.

(vi) The moral fitness of the parties involved.

(vii) The mental and physical health of the parties involved.

(viii) The child's home, school, and community record.

(ix) The child's reasonable preference, if the court considers the child to be of sufficient age to express a preference.

(x) The party's willingness and ability to facilitate and encourage a close and continuing parent-child relationship between the child and his or her parent or parents.

(xi) Domestic violence regardless of whether the violence is directed against or witnessed by the child.

(xii) Any other factor considered by the court to be relevant to a particular dispute regarding termination of a guardianship, removal of a guardian, or parenting time.

(b) "Claim" includes, in respect to a protected individual, a liability of the protected individual, whether arising in contract, tort, or otherwise, and a liability of the estate that arises at or after the appointment of a conservator, including expenses of administration.

(c) "Conservator" includes, but is not limited to, a limited conservator described in section 5419(1).

(d) "Mental health professional" means a person who is trained and experienced in the area of mental illness and who is any of the following:

(i) A physician who is licensed to practice medicine or osteopathic medicine in this state.

(ii) A psychologist who has been granted a full or limited license to practice in this state.

(iii) A social worker who is registered as a certified social worker in this state.

(iv) A registered nurse who is licensed to practice nursing in this state and who is a graduate of a state-approved school of nursing.

(e) "Money" means legal tender or a note, draft, certificate of deposit, stock, bond, check, or credit card.

(f) "Visitor" means an individual appointed in a guardianship or protective proceeding who is trained in law, nursing, or social work, is an officer, employee, or special appointee of the court, and has no personal interest in the proceeding.

Sec. 5102. (1) A person under a duty to pay or deliver money or personal property to a minor may perform this duty by paying or delivering the money or property, in an aggregate value that does not exceed \$5,000.00 each year, to any of the following:

(a) The minor if he or she is married.

(b) An individual having the care and custody of the minor with whom the minor resides.

(c) A guardian of the minor.

(d) A financial institution incident to a deposit in a state or federally insured savings account in the sole name of the minor with notice of the deposit to the minor.

(2) This section does not apply if the person making payment or delivery knows that a conservator has been appointed or a proceeding for appointment of a conservator of the minor's estate is pending.

(3) Other than the minor or a financial institution, an individual receiving money or property for a minor is obligated to apply the money to the minor's support and education, but shall not pay himself or herself except by way of reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses for goods and services necessary for the minor's support. An excess amount shall be preserved for the minor's future support and education. A balance not used for those purposes and property received for the minor shall be turned over to the minor when majority is attained. A person who pays or delivers money or property in accordance with this section is not responsible for the proper application of the money or property.

Sec. 5103. By a properly executed power of attorney, a parent or guardian of a minor or a guardian of an incapacitated individual may delegate to another person, for a period not exceeding 6 months, any of the parent's or guardian's powers regarding care, custody, or property of the minor child or ward, except the power to consent to marriage or adoption of a minor ward or to release of a minor ward for adoption. If a guardian for a minor or incapacitated individual delegates any power under this section, the guardian shall notify the court within 7 days after execution of the power of attorney, and provide the court the name, address, and telephone number of the attorney-in-fact.

Sec. 5104. (1) An interested person who desires to be notified before an order is made in a guardianship proceeding, including a proceeding subsequent to the appointment of a guardian under section 5312, or in a protective proceeding under section 5401 must file a request for notice with the register of the court in which the proceeding is pending and with the attorney of record of the guardian or conservator or, if none, with the guardian or conservator, if any. A request is not effective unless it contains a statement showing the interest of the person making it and the address of that person or an attorney to whom notice is to be given. The request is effective only as to a proceeding that occurs after the filing. If a guardianship or protective proceeding is not pending at the time a person files a request for notice as authorized by this subsection, the person shall pay a fee for filing the request, which fee shall be in the same amount as, but is separate from, the fee required to commence such a proceeding.

(2) A governmental agency paying benefits to the individual to be protected or before whom an application for benefits is pending is an interested person in a protective proceeding.

Sec. 5105. The court has jurisdiction of the matter described in this section. If authorized by order of the court that has jurisdiction of the prospective donor, a person 14 years of age or older may give 1 of his or her 2 kidneys to a father, mother, son, daughter, brother, or sister for a transplantation needed by the intended donee. A guardian, parent, spouse, child, or other next of kin of the prospective donor, other than the intended donee, may file a petition for an order under this section. If the prospective donor does not have a guardian, the court shall appoint a guardian ad litem to protect the prospective donor's interests. The court shall hold a hearing on the petition and cause notice of the hearing to be given. The prospective donor shall be present at the hearing and shall be examined by the petitioner or the court, or both. If the court determines that the prospective donor is sufficiently sound of mind to understand the needs and probable consequences of the gift to both the donor and donee and agrees to the gift, the court may enter an order authorizing the making of the gift.

Sec. 5106. (1) Subject to subsections (2) and (3), the court may appoint or approve as a guardian, limited or temporary guardian, or conservator under this act, or as a plenary guardian or partial guardian as those terms are defined in section 600 of the mental health code, 1974 PA 258, MCL 330.1600, a nonprofit corporation incorporated under the nonprofit corporation act, 1982 PA 162, MCL 450.2101 to 450.3192, which corporation's primary function is to provide fiduciary services in the same manner as other fiduciaries under this act. This section shall not be construed to make a person that is not a nonprofit corporation described in this subsection ineligible to be appointed or approved as a fiduciary.

(2) The court shall only appoint a corporation as authorized under subsection (1) if the court finds on the record both of the following:

(a) The appointment of the nonprofit corporation is in the ward's or developmentally disabled individual's best interests.

(b) Another qualified, suitable person has not come before the court and expressed a willingness to serve in that fiduciary capacity.

(3) The court shall not appoint a corporation as authorized under subsection (1) unless the corporation files a bond in an amount and with the conditions as determined by the court. The sureties and liabilities of the bond shall be as provided in sections 5410 and 5411. The court shall not appoint a corporation described in subsection (1) as a personal representative or trustee.

(4) A corporation appointed under this section shall not receive as a result of that appointment a benefit beyond compensation specifically authorized for that type of fiduciary by this act or the mental health code, 1974 PA 258, MCL 330.1001 to 330.2106.



Sec. 5107. (1) Upon entry of an order finding that an individual is legally incapacitated, the court shall immediately order the department of state police to enter the order into the law enforcement information network.

(2) Upon entry of an order finding that an individual is no longer legally incapacitated, the court shall immediately order the department of state police to remove from the law enforcement information network the court order entered into the law enforcement information network under subsection (1) that found that the individual was legally incapacitated.

(3) The department of state police shall immediately enter an order into the law enforcement information network or shall immediately remove an order from the law enforcement information network as ordered by the court under this section.

## PART 2

### GUARDIANS OF MINORS

Sec. 5201. A person may become a minor's guardian by parental appointment or court appointment. The guardianship status continues until terminated, without regard to the location from time to time of the guardian or minor ward.

Sec. 5202. (1) The parent of an unmarried minor may appoint a guardian for the minor by will or by another writing signed by the parent and attested by at least 2 witnesses.

(2) Subject to the right of the minor under section 5203, if both parents are dead or incapacitated or the surviving parent has no parental rights or has been adjudged to be incapacitated, a parental appointment becomes effective when the guardian's acceptance is filed in the court in which a nominating instrument is probated or, in the case of a nontestamentary nominating instrument, in the court at the place where the minor resides or is present. If both parents are dead, an effective appointment by the parent who died later has priority.

(3) A parental appointment effected by filing the guardian's acceptance under a will probated in the state of the testator's domicile is effective in this state.

(4) Upon acceptance of appointment, the guardian shall give written notice of acceptance to the minor and to the person having the minor's care or the minor's nearest adult relative.

Sec. 5203. A minor 14 years of age or older who is the subject of a parental appointment may prevent an appointment or cause it to terminate by filing with the court in which the nominating instrument is filed a written objection to the appointment before it is accepted or within 28 days after its acceptance. An objection may be withdrawn. An objection does not preclude appointment by the court in a proper proceeding of the parental nominee or another suitable person.

Sec. 5204. (1) A person interested in the welfare of a minor, or a minor if 14 years of age or older, may petition for the appointment of a guardian for the minor. The court may order the family independence agency or a court employee or agent to conduct an investigation of the proposed guardianship and file a written report of the investigation.

(2) The court may appoint a guardian for an unmarried minor if any of the following circumstances exist:

(a) The parental rights of both parents or the surviving parent are terminated or suspended by prior court order, by judgment of divorce or separate maintenance, by death, by judicial determination of mental incompetency, by disappearance, or by confinement in a place of detention.

(b) The parent or parents permit the minor to reside with another person and do not provide the other person with legal authority for the minor's care and maintenance.

(c) All of the following:

(i) The minor's biological parents have never been married to one another.

(ii) The minor's parent who has custody of the minor dies or is missing and the other parent has not been granted legal custody under court order.

(iii) The person whom the petition asks to be appointed guardian is related to the minor within the fifth degree by marriage, blood, or adoption.

(3) A minor's limited guardian may petition to be appointed a guardian for that minor, except that the petition shall not be based upon suspension of parental rights by the order that appointed that person the limited guardian for that minor.

(4) A guardian appointed under section 5202 whose appointment is not prevented or nullified under section 5203 has priority over a guardian who may be appointed by the court. The court may proceed with an appointment upon a finding that the testamentary guardian has failed to accept the appointment within 28 days after the notice of the guardianship proceeding.

(5) For the minor ward's welfare, the court may at any time order the minor ward's parents to pay reasonable support and order reasonable parenting time and contact of the minor ward with his or her parents.

Sec. 5205. (1) The court may appoint a limited guardian for an unmarried minor upon the petition of the minor's parent or parents if all of the following requirements are met:

(a) The parents with custody of the minor consent or, in the case of only 1 parent having custody of the minor, the sole parent consents to the appointment of a limited guardian.

(b) The parent or parents voluntarily consent to the suspension of their parental rights.

(c) The court approves a limited guardianship placement plan agreed to by both of the following parties:

(i) The parents with custody of the minor or, in the case of only 1 parent having custody of the minor, the sole parent who has custody of the minor.

(ii) The person or persons whom the court will appoint as the minor's limited guardian.

(2) A minor's parent or parents who desire to have the court appoint a limited guardian for that minor and the person or persons who desire to be appointed limited guardian for that minor must develop a limited guardianship placement plan. The parties must use a limited guardianship placement plan form prescribed by the state court administrator. A limited guardianship placement plan form must include a notice that informs a parent who is a party to the plan that substantial failure to comply with the plan without good cause may result in the termination of the parent's parental rights under chapter XIIA of 1939 PA 288, MCL 712A.1 to 712A.32. The proposed limited guardianship placement plan shall be attached to the petition requesting the court to appoint a limited guardian. The limited guardianship placement plan shall include provisions concerning all of the following:

(a) The reason the parent or parents are requesting the court to appoint a limited guardian for the minor.

(b) Parenting time and contact with the minor by his or her parent or parents sufficient to maintain a parent and child relationship.

(c) The duration of the limited guardianship.

(d) Financial support for the minor.

(e) Any other provisions that the parties agree to include in the plan.

Sec. 5206. (1) The court shall review a proposed limited guardianship placement plan filed with the court under section 5205 and shall do 1 of the following:

(a) Approve the proposed plan.

(b) Disapprove the proposed plan.

(c) On its own motion, modify a proposed plan and approve it as modified, if the parties agree to the modification. The modified plan shall be filed with the court.

(2) A limited guardianship placement plan that has been approved by the court may be modified upon agreement of the parties and approval of the court. A modified limited guardianship placement plan shall be filed with the court.

(3) The voluntary suspension of parental rights under section 5205 does not prevent the parent or parents from filing a petition to terminate the limited guardianship at any time as provided in section 5208. Appointment of a limited guardian under this section is a continuing appointment.

(4) A limited guardian appointed under this section has all of the powers and duties enumerated in section 5215 except that a minor's limited guardian shall not consent to marriage or adoption of the minor ward or to the release of the minor ward for adoption.

Sec. 5207. (1) The court may review a guardianship for a minor as it considers necessary and shall review a guardianship annually if the minor is under 6 years of age. In conducting the review, the court shall consider all of the following factors:

(a) The parent's and guardian's compliance with either of the following, as applicable:

(i) A limited guardianship placement plan.

(ii) A court-structured plan under subsection (3)(b)(i)(B) or section 5209(2)(b)(i).

(b) Whether the guardian has adequately provided for the minor's welfare.

(c) The necessity of continuing the guardianship.

(d) The guardian's willingness and ability to continue to provide for the minor's welfare.

(e) The effect upon the minor's welfare if the guardianship is continued.

(f) Any other factor that the court considers relevant to the minor's welfare.

(2) The court may order the family independence agency or a court employee or agent to conduct an investigation and file a written report of the investigation regarding the factors listed in subsection (1).

(3) Upon completion of a guardianship review, the court may do either of the following:

(a) Continue the guardianship.

(b) Schedule and conduct a hearing on the guardianship's status and do any of the following:

(i) If the guardianship is a limited guardianship, do either of the following:

(A) Continue the limited guardianship.

(B) Order the parties to modify the limited guardianship placement plan as a condition to continuing the limited guardianship.

(ii) If the guardianship was established under section 5204, do either of the following:

(A) Continue the guardianship.

(B) Order the parties to follow a court-structured plan designed to resolve the conditions identified at the review hearing.

(iii) Take an action described in section 5209(2).

Sec. 5208. (1) A minor's parent or parents may petition the court to terminate a guardianship for the minor as follows:

(a) If the guardianship is a limited guardianship, the parents or the sole parent with a right to custody of the minor.

(b) If the guardianship was established under section 5204, the minor's parent or parents.

(2) If a petition is filed to terminate a guardianship under this section, the court may do 1 or more of the following:

(a) Order the family independence agency or a court employee or agent to conduct an investigation and file a written report of the investigation regarding the best interests of the minor or give testimony concerning the investigation.

(b) Utilize the community resources in behavioral sciences and other professions in the investigation and study of the best interests of the minor and consider their recommendations for the disposition of the petition.

(c) Appoint a guardian ad litem or attorney to represent the minor.

(d) Take any other action considered necessary in a particular case.

(3) This section and section 5209 apply to all guardianships established before, on, or after the effective date of this section.

Sec. 5209. (1) After notice and hearing on a petition under section 5208 to terminate a limited guardianship, the court shall terminate the limited guardianship if it determines that the minor's parent or parents have substantially complied with the limited guardianship placement plan. The court may enter orders to facilitate the minor's reintegration into the home of the parent or parents for a period of up to 6 months before the termination.

(2) For a petition to terminate a guardianship in which subsection (1) does not apply, after notice and hearing, the court may do any of the following:

(a) Terminate the guardianship if the court determines that it is in the best interests of the minor, and do any of the following:

(i) Enter orders to facilitate the minor's reintegration into the parent's home for a period of up to 6 months before the termination.

(ii) Order the family independence agency to supervise the transition period when the minor is being reintegrated into his or her parent's home.

(iii) Order the family independence agency to provide services to facilitate the minor's reintegration into his or her parent's home.

(b) Continue the guardianship for not more than 1 year after the hearing date if the court determines that it is in the best interests of the minor, and do any of the following:

(i) If the guardianship is a limited guardianship, order the parent or parents to comply with 1 of the following:

(A) The limited guardianship placement plan.

(B) A court-modified limited guardianship placement plan.

(C) If the limited guardianship was established before December 20, 1990, a court-structured plan that enables the minor to return to the home of his or her parent or parents.

(ii) If the guardianship is ordered under section 5204, order the parent or parents to follow a court-structured plan that enables the minor to return to the home of his or her parent or parents.

(iii) If a guardianship is continued under subparagraph (j) or (ii), schedule and conduct a hearing to review the guardianship before the expiration of the period of time that the guardianship is continued and either terminate the guardianship or limited guardianship or proceed under subdivision (c) or (d).

(c) If the minor resides with the guardian or limited guardian for not less than 1 year and if the court finds that the minor's parent or parents have failed to provide the minor with parental care, love, guidance, and attention appropriate to the child's age and individual needs resulting in a substantial disruption of the parent-child relationship, continue the guardianship if it is established by clear and convincing evidence that the continuation would serve the best interests of the minor.

(d) Appoint an attorney to represent the minor or refer the matter to the family independence agency. The attorney or the family independence agency may file a complaint on behalf of the minor requesting the family division of the circuit court to take jurisdiction of the minor under section 2(b) of chapter XIIA of 1939 PA 288, MCL 712A.2.

Sec. 5210. Upon receipt of a copy of a judgment or an order of disposition in a child custody action regarding a minor that is sent to the court as provided in section 6b of the child custody act of 1970, 1970 PA 91, MCL 722.26b, the court shall terminate the guardianship or limited guardianship for that minor.

Sec. 5211. The venue for a guardianship proceeding for a minor is in the place where the minor resides or is present at the time the proceeding is commenced.

Sec. 5212. The court may appoint as guardian a person whose appointment serves the minor's welfare, including a nonprofit corporation described in section 5106. If the minor is 14 years of age or older, the court shall appoint a person nominated by the minor, unless the court finds the appointment contrary to the minor's welfare.

Sec. 5213. (1) The petitioner shall give notice of the time and place of hearing of a petition for the appointment of a minor's guardian to each of the following:

(a) The minor, if 14 years of age or older.

(b) The person who had the principal care and custody of the minor during the 63 days preceding the date of the petition.

(c) Each living parent of the minor or, if neither of them is living, the adult nearest of kin to the minor.

(2) Upon hearing, if the court finds that a qualified person seeks appointment, venue is proper, the required notices have been given, the requirements of section 5204, or sections 5205 and 5206, are satisfied, and the minor's welfare will be served by the requested appointment, the court shall make the appointment. In other cases, the court may dismiss the proceeding or make another disposition of the matter that will serve the minor's welfare.

(3) If necessary, the court may appoint a temporary guardian with the status of an ordinary guardian of a minor, but the temporary guardian's authority shall not exceed 6 months.

(4) If, at any time in the proceeding, the court determines that the minor's interests are or may be inadequately represented, the court may appoint an attorney to represent the minor, giving a consideration to the preference of the minor if the minor is 14 years of age or older.

Sec. 5214. By accepting a parental or court appointment as guardian, a guardian submits personally to the court's jurisdiction in a proceeding relating to the guardianship that may be instituted by an interested person. The petitioner shall cause notice of a proceeding to be delivered to the guardian or mailed to the guardian by first-class mail at the guardian's address listed in the court records and to the address then known to the petitioner. Letters of guardianship must indicate whether the guardian was appointed by court order or parental nomination.

Sec. 5215. A minor's guardian has the powers and responsibilities of a parent who is not deprived of custody of the parent's minor and unemancipated child, except that a guardian is not legally obligated to provide for the ward from the guardian's own money and is not liable to third persons by reason of the parental relationship for the ward's acts. A guardian has all of the following powers and duties:

(a) The guardian shall take reasonable care of a ward's personal effects and commence a protective proceeding if necessary to protect the ward's other property.

(b) The guardian may receive money payable for the ward's support to the ward's parent, guardian, or custodian under the terms of a statutory benefit or insurance system, or a private contract, devise, trust, conservatorship, or custodianship. The guardian may receive the ward's money or property paid or delivered under section 5102. Money or property received under that section shall be applied to the ward's current needs for support, care, and education. The guardian shall exercise due care to conserve any excess for the ward's future needs unless a conservator is appointed for the ward's estate, in which case the excess shall be paid over at least annually to the conservator. The guardian shall not use that money or property for compensation for the guardian's services except as approved by court order or as

determined by a duly appointed conservator other than the guardian. A guardian may institute a proceeding to compel a person's performance of a duty to support the ward or to pay money for the ward's welfare.

(c) The guardian shall facilitate the ward's education and social or other activities, and shall 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 be illegal for a parent to have consented.

(d) A guardian may consent to a minor ward's marriage.

(e) Subject to the conditions and restrictions of chapter X of 1939 PA 288, MCL 710.21 to 710.70, a guardian may consent to marriage or adoption of a minor ward or to the release of a minor ward for adoption.

(f) A guardian must report the condition of the ward and of the ward's estate that is subject to the guardian's possession or control as ordered by the court on petition of a person interested in the minor's welfare or as required by court rule. The report must detail the condition of the ward, medical or mental health treatment or care to which the ward was subjected, and what reason, if any, exists for the continuation of the guardianship.

(g) Within 14 days after a change in the ward's place of residence, the guardian shall give to the court notice of the ward's new address.

Sec. 5216. (1) A guardian is entitled to reasonable compensation for services as guardian and to reimbursement for room, board, and clothing personally provided to the ward, but only as approved by court order.

(2) If a minor dies while under guardianship and a conservator has not been appointed for the minor's estate and if the guardian has possession of any money of the deceased minor, upon petition of the guardian and with or without notice, the court may hear a claim for burial expenses or another claim as the court considers advisable. Upon hearing the claim, the court may enter an order allowing or disallowing the claim or a part of it and may provide in an order of allowance that the claim or a part of it be paid immediately if the payment can be made without injury or serious inconvenience to the minor's estate.

Sec. 5217. A guardian's authority and responsibility terminate upon the guardian's death, resignation, or removal or upon the minor's death, adoption, marriage, or attainment of majority. However, a termination does not affect the guardian's liability for prior acts or the obligation to account for the ward's money and property. The guardian's resignation does not terminate the guardianship until it is approved by the court. A parental appointment under an informally probated will terminates if the will is later denied probate in a formal proceeding.

Sec. 5218. (1) The court at the place where the ward resides has concurrent jurisdiction over resignation, removal, accounting, or another proceeding relating to the guardianship with the court that appointed the guardian or in which acceptance of a parental appointment was filed.

(2) If the court located where the ward resides is neither the appointing court nor the court in which acceptance of appointment is filed, the court in which a proceeding subsequent to appointment is commenced in all appropriate cases shall notify the other court, in this or another state, and after consultation with that court, shall determine whether to retain jurisdiction or transfer the proceeding to the other court, whichever will serve the ward's welfare. A copy of an order accepting a resignation or removing a guardian shall be sent to the appointing court or the court in which acceptance of appointment is filed.

Sec. 5219. (1) A person interested in a ward's welfare or, if 14 years of age or older, the ward may petition for the removal of a guardian on the ground that removal would serve the ward's welfare or for another order that would serve the ward's welfare. A guardian may petition for permission to resign. A petition for removal or for permission to resign may, but need not, include a request for a successor guardian's appointment.

(2) Notice of a hearing on a petition for an order after a guardian's appointment must be given to the ward, the guardian, and any other person as ordered by the court or as provided by court rule.

(3) After notice and hearing on a petition for removal or for permission to resign, the court may terminate the guardianship and make further order that may be appropriate.

(4) If the court determines at any time in a proceeding that the ward's interest is or may be inadequately represented, the court may appoint an attorney to represent the minor, giving consideration to the preference of the minor if the minor is 14 years of age or older.

### PART 3

### GUARDIANS OF INCAPACITATED INDIVIDUALS

Sec. 530l. (1) If serving as guardian, the parent of an unmarried incapacitated individual may appoint by will, or other writing signed by the parent and attested by at least 2 witnesses, a guardian for the incapacitated individual. If both parents are dead or the surviving parent is adjudged incapacitated, a parental appointment becomes effective

when, after having given 7 days' prior written notice of intention to do so to the incapacitated individual and to the person having the care of the incapacitated individual or to the nearest adult relative, the guardian files acceptance of appointment in the court in which the will is probated or, in the case of a nontestamentary nominating instrument, in the court at the place where the incapacitated individual resides or is present. The notice must state that the appointment may be terminated by filing a written objection in the court as provided by subsection (4). If both parents are dead, an effective appointment by the parent who died later has priority.

(2) If serving as guardian, the spouse of a married incapacitated individual may appoint by will, or other writing signed by the spouse and attested by at least 2 witnesses, a guardian of the incapacitated individual. The appointment becomes effective when, after having given 7 days' prior written notice of intention to do so to the incapacitated individual and to the person having care of the incapacitated individual or to the nearest adult relative, the guardian files acceptance of appointment in the court in which the will is probated or, in the case of a nontestamentary nominating instrument, in the court at the place where the incapacitated individual resides or is present. The notice must state that the appointment may be terminated by filing a written objection in the court as provided by subsection (4).

(3) An appointment effected by filing the guardian's acceptance under a will probated in the state of the decedent's domicile is effective in this state.

(4) Upon the filing of the incapacitated individual's written objection to a guardian's appointment under this section in either the court in which the will was probated or, for a nontestamentary nominating instrument, the court at the place where the incapacitated individual resides or is present, the appointment is terminated. An objection does not prevent appointment by the court in a proper proceeding of the parental or spousal nominee or another suitable person upon an adjudication of incapacity in a proceeding under sections 5302 to 5317.

Sec. 5302. The venue for a guardianship proceeding for an incapacitated individual is in the place where the incapacitated individual resides or is present. If the incapacitated individual is admitted to an institution by order of a court of competent jurisdiction, venue is also in the county in which that court is located.

Sec. 5303. (1) An individual in his or her own behalf, or any person interested in the individual's welfare, may petition for a finding of incapacity and appointment of a guardian. The petition shall contain specific facts about the individual's condition and specific examples of the individual's recent conduct that demonstrate the need for a guardian's appointment.

(2) Upon the filing of a petition under subsection (1), the court shall set a date for hearing on the issue of incapacity. Unless the allegedly incapacitated individual has legal counsel of his or her own choice, the court shall appoint a guardian ad litem to represent the person in the proceeding.

Sec. 5304. (1) If necessary, the court may order that an individual alleged to be incapacitated be examined by a physician or mental health professional appointed by the court who shall submit a report in writing to the court at least 5 days before the hearing set under section 5303. A report prepared as provided in this subsection shall not be made a part of the proceeding's public record, but shall be available to the court or an appellate court in which the proceeding is subject to review, to the alleged incapacitated individual, to the petitioner, to their respective legal counsels, and to other persons as the court directs. The report may be used as provided in the Michigan rules of evidence.

(2) The alleged incapacitated individual has the right to secure an independent evaluation, at his or her own expense or, if indigent, at the expense of the state. Compensation for an independent evaluation at public expense shall be in an amount that, based upon time and expense, the court approves as reasonable.

(3) A report prepared under this section shall contain all of the following:

(a) A detailed description of the individual's physical or psychological infirmities.

(b) An explanation of how and to what extent each infirmity interferes with the individual's ability to receive or evaluate information in making decisions.

(c) A listing of all medications the individual is receiving, the dosage of each medication, and a description of the effects each medication has upon the individual's behavior.

(d) A prognosis for improvement in the individual's condition and a recommendation for the most appropriate rehabilitation plan.

(e) The signatures of all individuals who performed the evaluations upon which the report is based.

(4) The individual alleged to be incapacitated is entitled to be present at the hearing in person, and to see or hear all evidence bearing upon the individual's condition. If the individual wishes to be present at the hearing, all practical steps shall be taken to ensure his or her presence, including, if necessary, moving the hearing site.

(5) The individual is entitled to be represented by legal counsel, to present evidence, to cross-examine witnesses, including the court-appointed physician or mental health professional and the visitor, and to trial by jury.

(6) The issue of incapacity may be determined at a closed hearing without a jury if requested by the individual alleged to be incapacitated or that individual's legal counsel.

Sec. 5305. (1) The duties of a guardian ad litem appointed for an individual alleged to be incapacitated include all of the following:

(a) Personally visiting the individual.

(b) Explaining to the individual the nature, purpose, and legal effects of a guardian's appointment.

(c) Explaining to the individual the hearing procedure and the individual's rights in the hearing procedure, including, but not limited to, the right to contest the petition, to request limits on the guardian's powers, to object to a particular person being appointed guardian, to be present at the hearing, to be represented by legal counsel, and to have legal counsel appointed for the individual if he or she is unable to afford legal counsel.

(d) Informing the individual of the name of any person known to be seeking appointment as guardian.

(e) Making determinations, and informing the court of those determinations, on all of the following:

(i) Whether the individual wishes to be present at the hearing.

(ii) Whether the individual wishes to contest the petition.

(iii) Whether the individual wishes limits placed on the guardian's powers.

(iv) Whether the individual objects to a particular person being appointed guardian.

(2) The court shall not order compensation of the guardian ad litem unless the guardian ad litem states on the record or in the guardian ad litem's written report that he or she has complied with subsection (1).

(3) If the individual alleged to be incapacitated wishes to contest the petition, to have limits placed on the guardian's powers, or to object to a particular person being appointed guardian and if legal counsel has not been secured, the court shall appoint legal counsel to represent the individual alleged to be incapacitated. If the individual alleged to be incapacitated is indigent, the state shall bear the expense of legal counsel.

(4) If the individual alleged to be incapacitated requests legal counsel or the guardian ad litem determines it is in the best interest of the individual to have legal counsel, and if legal counsel has not been secured, the court shall appoint legal counsel. If the individual alleged to be incapacitated is indigent, the state shall bear the expense of legal counsel.

(5) If the individual alleged to be incapacitated has legal counsel appointed under subsection (3) or (4), the appointment of a guardian ad litem terminates.

Sec. 5306. (1) The court may appoint a guardian if it is satisfied by clear and convincing evidence that the individual for whom a guardian is sought is an incapacitated individual, and that the appointment is necessary as a means of providing continuing care and supervision of the incapacitated individual. Alternately, the court may dismiss the proceeding or enter another appropriate order.

(2) A guardian shall be granted only those powers and only for that period of time as is necessary to provide for the demonstrated need of the incapacitated individual, and the guardianship shall be designed to encourage the development of maximum self-reliance and independence in the individual. A court order establishing a guardianship shall specify any limitations on the guardian's powers and any time limits on the guardianship.

(3) If it is found by clear and convincing evidence that the individual is incapacitated and lacks the capacity to do some, but not all, of the tasks necessary to care for himself or herself, the court may appoint a limited guardian to provide guardianship services to the individual, but the court shall not appoint a full guardian.

(4) If it is found by clear and convincing evidence that the individual is incapacitated and is totally without capacity to care for himself or herself, the court shall specify that finding of fact in an order and may appoint a full guardian.

Sec. 5307. By accepting appointment, a guardian personally submits to the court's jurisdiction in a proceeding relating to the guardianship that may be instituted by an interested person. Notice of a proceeding shall be delivered to the guardian or mailed to the guardian by first-class mail at the guardian's address as listed in the court records and to his or her address as then known to the petitioner.

Sec. 5308. The guardian's authority and responsibility for an incapacitated individual terminates upon the death of the guardian or ward, upon the determination of incapacity of the guardian, or upon removal or resignation as provided in section 5310. Testamentary appointment of a guardian under a will probated under article III terminates if the will is later denied probate under a supervised probate proceeding.

Sec. 5309. The court shall review a guardianship not later than 1 year after the guardian's appointment and not later than every 3 years after each review.

Sec. 5310. (1) On petition of the guardian and subject to the filing and approval of a report prepared as required by section 5314, the court shall accept the guardian's resignation and make any other order that is appropriate.

(2) The ward or a person interested in the ward's welfare may petition for an order removing the guardian, appointing a successor guardian, modifying the guardianship's terms, or terminating the guardianship. A request for this order may be made by informal letter to the court or judge. A person who knowingly interferes with the transmission of this kind of request to the court or judge is subject to a finding of contempt of court.

(3) Except as otherwise provided in the order finding incapacity, upon receiving a petition or request under this section, the court shall set a date for a hearing to be held within 28 days after the receipt of the petition or request. An order finding incapacity may specify a minimum period, not exceeding 182 days, during which a petition or request for a finding that a ward is no longer incapacitated, or for an order removing the guardian, modifying the guardianship's terms, or terminating the guardianship, shall not be filed without special leave of the court.

(4) Before removing a guardian, appointing a successor guardian, modifying the guardianship's terms, or terminating a guardianship, and following the same procedures to safeguard the ward's rights as apply to a petition for a guardian's appointment, the court may send a visitor to the present guardian's residence and to the place where the ward resides or is detained to observe conditions and report in writing to the court.

Sec. 5311. (1) In a proceeding for the appointment or removal of an incapacitated individual's guardian, other than the appointment of a temporary guardian or temporary suspension of a guardian, notice of hearing must be given to each of the following:

- (a) The ward or the individual alleged to be incapacitated and that individual's spouse, parents, and adult children.
- (b) A person who is serving as the guardian or conservator or who has the individual's care and custody.
- (c) If known, a person named as attorney in fact under a durable power of attorney.
- (d) If no other person is notified under subdivision (a), (b), or (c), at least 1 of the individual's closest adult relatives, if any can be found.

(2) Notice must be served personally on the alleged incapacitated individual. Notice to all other persons must be given as prescribed by court rule. Waiver of notice by the individual alleged to be incapacitated is not effective unless the individual attends the hearing or a waiver of notice is confirmed in an interview with the visitor.

(3) In a proceeding for a guardian's appointment under sections 5303 and 5304, a copy of the petition must be attached to the hearing notice, and the notice to the alleged incapacitated individual must contain all of the following information:

- (a) The nature, purpose, and legal effects of the appointment of a guardian.
- (b) The alleged incapacitated individual's rights in the proceeding, including the right to appointed legal counsel.

Sec. 5312. (1) If an individual does not have a guardian, an emergency exists, and no other person appears to have authority to act in the circumstances, the court shall provide notice to the individual alleged to be incapacitated and shall hold a hearing. Upon a showing that the individual is incapacitated, the court may exercise the power of a guardian, or appoint a temporary guardian with only the powers and for the period of time as ordered by the court. A hearing with notice as provided in section 5311 shall be held within 28 days after the court has acted under this subsection.

(2) If an appointed guardian is not effectively performing the guardian's duties and the court further finds that the incapacitated individual's welfare requires immediate action, the court may appoint, with or without notice, a temporary guardian for the incapacitated individual for a specified period not to exceed 6 months.

(3) A temporary guardian is entitled to the care and custody of the ward, and the authority of a permanent guardian previously appointed by the court is suspended as long as a temporary guardian has authority. A temporary guardian may be removed at any time. A temporary guardian shall make reports as the court requires. In other respects, the provisions of this act concerning guardians apply to temporary guardians.

Sec. 5313. (1) A competent person, including a nonprofit corporation described in section 5106, may be appointed guardian of an incapacitated individual. The court shall not appoint as a guardian an agency, public or private, that financially benefits from directly providing housing, medical, or social services to the incapacitated individual.

(2) In appointing a guardian under this section, the court shall appoint a person, if suitable and willing to serve, designated by the individual who is the subject of the petition, including a designation made in a durable power of attorney. If a specific designation is not made or a person designated is not suitable or willing to serve, the court may appoint as a guardian a person named as attorney in fact through a durable power of attorney.

(3) If a person is not designated under subsection (2) or a person designated under subsection (2) is not suitable or willing to serve, the court may appoint as a guardian an individual who is related to the subject of the petition in the following order of preference:



(a) The incapacitated individual's spouse. This subdivision shall be considered to include a person nominated by will or other writing signed by a deceased spouse.

(b) An adult child of the incapacitated individual.

(c) A parent of the incapacitated individual. This subdivision shall be considered to include a person nominated by will or other writing signed by a deceased parent.

(d) A relative of the incapacitated individual with whom the individual has resided for more than 6 months before the filing of the petition.

(e) A person nominated by the person who is caring for the individual or paying benefits to the individual.

(4) If none of the persons listed in subsection (3) is suitable or willing to serve, the court may appoint any competent person who is suitable and willing to serve.

Sec. 5314. Whenever meaningful communication is possible, an incapacitated individual's guardian should consult with the incapacitated individual before making a major decision affecting the incapacitated individual. Except as limited under section 5306, an incapacitated individual's guardian is responsible for the ward's care, custody, and control, but is not liable to third persons by reason of that responsibility for the ward's acts. In particular and without qualifying the foregoing, a guardian has all of the following powers and duties, except as modified by court order:

(a) To the extent that it is consistent with the terms of an order by a court of competent jurisdiction relating to detention or commitment of the ward, the guardian is entitled to custody of the person of the guardian's ward and may establish the ward's place of residence within or without this state. The guardian must notify the court within 14 days of a change in the ward's place of residence.

(b) If entitled to custody of the ward, the guardian must make provision for the ward's care, comfort, and maintenance and, when appropriate, arrange for the ward's training and education. The guardian has the responsibility of securing services to restore the ward to the best possible state of mental and physical well-being so that the ward can return to self-management at the earliest possible time. Without regard to custodial rights of the ward's person, the guardian must take reasonable care of the ward's clothing, furniture, vehicles, and other personal effects and commence a protective proceeding if the ward's other property is in need of protection.

(c) A guardian may give the consent or approval that may be necessary to enable the ward to receive medical or other professional care, counsel, treatment, or service.

(d) If a conservator for the ward's estate is not appointed, a guardian may:

(i) Institute a proceeding to compel a person under a duty to support the ward or to pay sums for the ward's welfare to perform that duty.

(ii) Receive money and tangible property deliverable to the ward and apply the money and property for the ward's support, care, and education. The guardian shall not use money from the ward's estate for room and board that the guardian or the guardian's spouse, parent, or child have furnished the ward unless a charge for the service is approved by court order made upon notice to at least 1 of the ward's next of kin, if notice is possible. The guardian shall exercise care to conserve any excess for the ward's needs.

(e) The guardian shall report the condition of the ward and the ward's estate that is subject to the guardian's possession or control, as required by the court, but not less often than annually. A report under this subdivision must contain all of the following:

(i) The ward's current mental, physical, and social condition.

(ii) Any improvement or deterioration in the ward's mental, physical, and social condition that occurred during the past year.

(iii) The ward's present living arrangement and any changes in his or her living arrangement that occurred during the past year.

(iv) Whether the guardian recommends a more suitable living arrangement for the ward.

(v) Medical treatment received by the ward.

(vi) Services received by the ward.

(vii) A list of the guardian's visits with, and activities on behalf of, the ward.

(viii) A recommendation as to the need for continued guardianship.

(f) If a conservator is appointed, the guardian shall pay to the conservator, for management as provided in this act, the amount of the ward's estate received by the guardian in excess of the amount the guardian expends for the ward's current support, care, and education. The guardian shall account to the conservator for the amount expended.

Sec. 5315. (1) A guardian of an individual for whom a conservator also is appointed controls the ward's custody and care and is entitled to receive reasonable amounts for those services and for room and board furnished to the ward as

agreed upon between the guardian and the conservator if the amounts agreed upon are reasonable under the circumstances. The guardian may request the conservator to expend the ward's estate by payment to a third person or institution for the ward's care and maintenance.

(2) If a ward dies while under guardianship and a conservator has not been appointed for the ward's estate and if the guardian has possession of money of the deceased ward, upon petition of the guardian and with or without notice, the court may hear a claim for burial expenses or any other claim as the court considers advisable. Upon hearing the claim, the court may enter an order allowing or disallowing the claim or a part of the claim and may provide in the order of allowance that the claim or a part of it be paid immediately if the payment can be made without injury or serious inconvenience to the ward's estate.

Sec. 5316. To encourage self-reliance and independence in an incapacitated individual, the court may authorize the individual to function without the consent or supervision of the individual's guardian or conservator in handling part of his or her money or property, including authorizing the individual to maintain an account with a financial institution. To the extent the individual is authorized to function autonomously, a person may deal with the individual as though the individual is mentally competent.

Sec. 5317. (1) The court in the county where the ward resides has concurrent jurisdiction over resignation, removal, accounting, and other proceedings relating to the guardianship with the court that appointed the guardian or in which acceptance of a parental or spousal appointment was filed.

(2) If the court in the county where the ward resides is not the court in which acceptance of appointment is filed, the court in which a proceeding is commenced after the appointment in appropriate cases shall notify the other court, in this or another state, and after consultation with that court, shall determine whether to retain jurisdiction or transfer the proceeding to the other court, whichever is in the best interests of the ward. After this determination is made, the court accepting a resignation or removing a guardian shall direct this fiduciary to prepare and submit a final report to both courts. A copy of an order accepting a resignation or removing a guardian and a copy of the final report must be sent to the court in which acceptance of appointment is filed. The court entering this order may permit closing of the guardianship in the court in which acceptance of appointment is filed, without notice to interested persons.

Sec. 5318. If a third person is dealing with a guardian or is assisting a guardian in the conduct of a transaction, the third person may assume the existence of trust powers and their proper exercise by the guardian without inquiry. The third person is not bound to inquire whether the guardian may act or is properly exercising the power. Unless the third person has actual knowledge that the guardian is exceeding the guardian's powers or improperly exercising them, a third person is fully protected in dealing with the guardian as if the guardian possessed and properly exercised the powers the guardian purports to exercise. A third person is not bound to assume the proper application of estate assets paid or delivered to the guardian. This section does not apply to a third person dealing with a limited guardian.

#### PART 4

#### PROTECTION OF PROPERTY OF AN INDIVIDUAL UNDER DISABILITY OR OF A MINOR

Sec. 5401. (1) Upon petition and after notice and hearing in accordance with this part, the court may appoint a conservator or make another protective order for cause as provided in this section.

(2) The court may appoint a conservator or make another protective order in relation to a minor's estate and affairs if the court determines that the minor owns money or property that requires management or protection that cannot otherwise be provided, has or may have business affairs that may be jeopardized or prevented by minority, or needs money for support and education and that protection is necessary or desirable to obtain or provide money.

(3) The court may appoint a conservator or make another protective order in relation to an individual's estate and affairs if the court determines both of the following:

(a) The individual is unable to manage property and business affairs effectively for reasons such as mental illness, mental deficiency, physical illness or disability, chronic use of drugs, chronic intoxication, confinement, detention by a foreign power, or disappearance.

(b) The individual has property that will be wasted or dissipated unless proper management is provided, or money is needed for the individual's support, care, and welfare or for those entitled to the individual's support, and that protection is necessary or desirable to obtain or provide money.

(4) The court may appoint a conservator in relation to the estate and affairs of an individual who is mentally competent, but due to age or physical infirmity is unable to manage his or her property and affairs effectively and who, recognizing this disability, requests a conservator's appointment.

Sec. 5402. After the service of notice in a proceeding seeking a conservator's appointment or other protective order and until the proceeding's termination, the court in which the petition is filed has the following jurisdiction:

(a) Exclusive jurisdiction to determine the need for a conservator or other protective order until the proceeding is terminated.

(b) Exclusive jurisdiction to determine how the protected individual's estate that is subject to the laws of this state is managed, expended, or distributed to or for the use of the protected individual or any of the protected individual's dependents or other claimants.

(c) Concurrent jurisdiction to determine the validity of a claim against the protected individual or the protected individual's estate, and questions of title concerning estate property.

Sec. 5403. Venue for a proceeding under this part is as follows:

(a) In the court at the place in this state where the individual to be protected resides whether or not a guardian has been appointed in another place.

(b) If the individual to be protected does not reside in this state, in the court at a place where property of the individual is located.

Sec. 5404. (1) The individual to be protected, a person who is interested in the individual's estate, affairs, or welfare, including a parent, guardian, or custodian, or a person who would be adversely affected by lack of effective management of the individual's property and business affairs may petition for a conservator's appointment or for another appropriate protective order.

(2) The petition must set forth to the extent known the petitioner's interest; the name, age, residence, and address of the individual to be protected; the name and address of the guardian, if any; the name and address of the nearest relative known to the petitioner; a general statement of the individual's property with an estimate of the value of the property, including compensation, insurance, a pension, or an allowance to which the individual is entitled; and the reason why a conservator's appointment or another protective order is necessary. If a conservator's appointment is requested, the petition shall also set forth the name and address of the person whose appointment is sought and the basis of the claim to priority for appointment.

Sec. 5405. (1) On a petition for a conservator's appointment or another protective order, the requirements for notice described in section 5311 apply, subject to the following:

(a) If the individual to be protected has disappeared or is otherwise situated so as to make personal service of notice impracticable, notice to the individual shall be given by mail or publication as provided in section 1401.

(b) If the individual to be protected is a minor, section 5213(1) also applies.

(2) Notice of a hearing on a petition for an order after a conservator's appointment or another protective order must be given to the protected individual, a conservator of the protected individual's estate, and any other person as ordered by the court or as provided by court rule.

Sec. 5406. (1) Upon receipt of a petition for a conservator's appointment or another protective order because of minority, the court shall set a date for hearing. If, at any time in the proceeding, the court determines that the minor's interests are or may be inadequately represented, the court may appoint an attorney to represent the minor, giving consideration to the minor's choice if 14 years of age or older. An attorney appointed by the court to represent a minor has the powers and duties of a guardian ad litem.

(2) Upon receipt of a petition for a conservator's appointment or another protective order for a reason other than minority, the court shall set a date for hearing. Unless the individual to be protected has chosen counsel, or is mentally competent but aged or physically infirm, the court shall appoint a guardian ad litem to represent the person in the proceeding. If the alleged disability is mental illness, mental deficiency, physical illness or disability, chronic use of drugs, or chronic intoxication, the court may direct that the individual alleged to need protection be examined by a physician or mental health professional appointed by the court, preferably a physician or mental health professional who is not connected with an institution in which the individual is a patient or is detained. The individual alleged to need protection has the right to secure an independent evaluation at his or her own expense. The court may send a visitor to interview the individual to be protected. The visitor may be a guardian ad litem or a court officer or employee.

(3) The court may utilize, as an additional visitor, the service of a public or charitable agency to evaluate the condition of the individual to be protected and make appropriate recommendations to the court.

(4) The individual to be protected is entitled to be present at the hearing in person, and all practical steps must be taken to ensure the individual's presence including, if necessary, moving the site of the hearing. The individual is entitled to be represented by counsel, to present evidence, to cross-examine witnesses, including a court-appointed physician or other qualified person and a visitor, and to trial by jury. The issue may be determined at a closed hearing or without a jury if the individual to be protected or counsel for the individual so requests.

(5) Any person may request for permission to participate in the proceeding, and the court may grant the request, with or without hearing, upon determining that the best interest of the individual to be protected will be served by granting the request. The court may attach appropriate conditions to the permission.

(6) After hearing, upon finding that a basis for a conservator's appointment or another protective order is established by clear and convincing evidence, the court shall make the appointment or other appropriate protective order.

Sec. 5407. (1) The court shall exercise the authority conferred in this part to encourage the development of maximum self-reliance and independence of a protected individual and shall make protective orders only to the extent necessitated by the protected individual's mental and adaptive limitations and other conditions warranting the procedure. Accordingly, the court may authorize a protected individual to function without the consent or supervision of the individual's conservator in handling part of his or her money or property, including authorizing the individual to maintain an account with a financial institution. To the extent the individual is authorized to function autonomously, a person may deal with the individual as though the individual is mentally competent.

(2) The court has the following powers that may be exercised directly or through a conservator in respect to a protected individual's estate and business affairs:

(a) While a petition for a conservator's appointment or another protective order is pending and after preliminary hearing and without notice to others, the court has the power to preserve and apply property of the individual to be protected as may be required for the support of the individual or the individual's dependents.

(b) After hearing and upon determining that a basis for an appointment or other protective order exists with respect to a minor without other disability, the court has all those powers over the minor's estate and business affairs that are or may be necessary for the best interests of the minor and members of the minor's immediate family.

(c) After hearing and upon determining that a basis for an appointment or other protective order exists with respect to an individual for a reason other than minority, the court, for the benefit of the individual and members of the individual's immediate family, has all the powers over the estate and business affairs that the individual could exercise if present and not under disability, except the power to make a will. Those powers include, but are not limited to, all of the following:

(i) To make gifts.

(ii) To convey or release a contingent or expectant interest in property including marital property rights and a right of survivorship incident to joint tenancy or tenancy by the entirety.

(iii) To exercise or release a power held by the protected individual as trustee, personal representative, custodian for a minor, conservator, or donee of a power of appointment.

(iv) To enter into a contract.

(v) To create a revocable or irrevocable trust of estate property that may extend beyond the disability or life of the protected individual.

(vi) To exercise an option of the protected individual to purchase securities or other property.

(vii) To exercise a right to elect an option and change a beneficiary under an insurance or annuity policy and to surrender the policy for its cash value.

(viii) To exercise a right to an elective share in the estate of the individual's deceased spouse.

(ix) To renounce or disclaim an interest by testate or intestate succession or by inter vivos transfer.

(3) The court may exercise or direct the exercise of the following powers only if satisfied, after the notice and hearing, that it is in the protected individual's best interests and that the individual either is incapable of consenting or has consented to the proposed exercise of the power:

(a) To exercise or release a power of appointment of which the protected individual is donee.

(b) To renounce or disclaim an interest.

(c) To make a gift in trust or otherwise exceeding 20% of a year's income of the estate.

(d) To change a beneficiary under an insurance and annuity policy.

(4) A determination that a basis for a conservator's appointment or another protective order exists has no effect on the protected individual's capacity.

Sec. 5408. (1) If it is established in a proper proceeding that a basis exists as described in section 5401 for affecting an individual's property and business affairs, the court, without appointing a conservator, may authorize, direct, or ratify a transaction necessary or desirable to achieve a security, service, or care arrangement meeting the protected individual's foreseeable needs. Protective arrangements include, but are not limited to, payment, delivery, deposit, or retention of money or property; sale, mortgage, lease, or other transfer of property; entry into an annuity contract, contract for life care, deposit contract, or contract for training and education; or an addition to or establishment of a suitable trust.

(2) If it is established in a proper proceeding that a basis exists as described in section 5401 for affecting an individual's property and business affairs, the court, without appointing a conservator, may authorize, direct, or ratify a contract, trust, or other transaction relating to the protected individual's property and business affairs if the court determines that the transaction is in the protected individual's best interests.

(3) Before approving a protective arrangement or other transaction under this section, the court shall consider the interests of the protected individual's creditors and dependents and, in view of the disability, whether the protected individual needs the continuing protection of a conservator. The court may appoint a special conservator to assist in the accomplishment of a protective arrangement or other transaction authorized under this section. The special conservator has the authority conferred by the order and serves until discharged by order after reporting to the court on all matters done under the appointment order.

Sec. 5409. (1) The court may appoint an individual, a corporation authorized to exercise fiduciary powers, or a nonprofit corporation described in section 5106 to serve as conservator of a protected individual's estate. The following are entitled to consideration for appointment in the following order of priority:

(a) A conservator, guardian of property, or similar fiduciary appointed or recognized by the appropriate court of another jurisdiction in which the protected individual resides.

(b) An individual or corporation nominated by the protected individual if he or she is 14 years of age or older and of sufficient mental capacity to make an intelligent choice, including a nomination made in a durable power of attorney.

(c) The protected individual's spouse.

(d) An adult child of the protected individual.

(e) A parent of the protected individual or a person nominated by the will of a deceased parent.

(f) A relative of the protected individual with whom he or she has resided for more than 6 months before the petition is filed.

(g) A person nominated by the person who is caring for or paying benefits to the protected individual.

(h) If none of the persons listed in subdivisions (a) to (g) are suitable and willing to serve, any person that the court determines is suitable and willing to serve.

(2) A person named in subsection (1)(a), (c), (d), (e), or (f) may designate in writing a substitute to serve instead, and that designation transfers the priority to the substitute. If persons have equal priority, the court shall select the person the court considers best qualified to serve. Acting in the protected individual's best interest, the court may pass over a person having priority and appoint a person having a lower priority or no priority.

Sec. 5410. The court may require a conservator to furnish a bond conditioned upon faithful discharge of all duties of the trust according to law, with sureties as the court specifies. Unless otherwise directed, the bond shall be in the amount of the aggregate capital value of the estate property in the conservator's control plus 1 year's estimated income minus the value of securities deposited under arrangements requiring a court order for their removal and the value of land that the fiduciary, by express limitation of power, lacks power to sell or convey without court authorization. Instead of sureties on a bond, the court may accept other security for the performance of the bond, including a pledge of securities or a mortgage of land.

Sec. 5411. (1) The following requirements and provisions apply to a bond required under section 5410:

(a) Unless otherwise provided by the terms of the approved bond, sureties are jointly and severally liable with the conservator and with each other.

(b) By executing an approved bond of a conservator, a surety consents to the jurisdiction of the court that issued letters to the primary obligor in a proceeding pertaining to the conservator's fiduciary duties and naming the surety as a party respondent. Notice of a proceeding must be delivered to the surety or mailed by registered or certified mail to the address listed with the court where the bond is filed and to the address as then known to the petitioner.

(c) On petition of a successor conservator or an interested person, a proceeding may be initiated against a surety for breach of the obligation of the conservator's bond.

(d) The conservator's bond is not void after the first recovery but may be proceeded against from time to time until the whole penalty is exhausted.

(2) A proceeding shall not be commenced against a surety on a matter as to which an action or proceeding against the primary obligor is barred by adjudication or limitation.

Sec. 5412. (1) Before receiving letters, a conservator must qualify by filing with the appointing court a required bond and a statement of acceptance of the duties of the office.

(2) In filing the statement of acceptance, the conservator may exclude from the scope of the conservator's responsibility, for a period not exceeding 91 days, real estate or an ownership interest in a business entity if the

conservator reasonably believes the real estate or property owned by the business entity is or may be contaminated by a hazardous substance, or is or has been used for an activity directly or indirectly involving a hazardous substance that could result in liability to the estate or otherwise impair the value of property held in the estate. The conservator shall identify the real estate or ownership interest being excluded and specify the time period of exclusion.

(3) If the conservator identifies excluded property under subsection (2), the conservator's responsibilities extend to the excluded property at the end of the exclusion period or upon prior notice of acceptance of that property filed by the conservator with the court, unless, before the end of the exclusion period, the conservator requests the court to appoint a special conservator with respect to the excluded property or to exercise administrative authority over the excluded property by direct judicial order.

(4) In response to a request by the general conservator under subsection (3), the court may do either of the following:

(a) Appoint a special conservator with the duty and authority to collect and manage the excluded property, but only to the extent necessary for proper settlement of the estate, to preserve the property, to account with respect to the property, and to distribute or otherwise dispose of the property as directed by the general conservator or other court order.

(b) Direct administration of the excluded property by judicial order without the appointment of a conservator with respect to the property.

(5) By accepting appointment, a conservator submits personally to the court's jurisdiction in a proceeding relating to the estate that may be instituted by an interested person. Notice of a proceeding shall be delivered to the conservator or mailed by registered or certified mail to the address listed in the petition for appointment or as reported to the court after appointment and to the address as then known to the petitioner.

Sec. 5413. If not otherwise compensated for services rendered, a visitor, guardian ad litem, attorney, physician, conservator, or special conservator appointed in a protective proceeding, is entitled to reasonable compensation from the estate.

Sec. 5414. The court may remove a conservator for good cause, upon notice and hearing, or accept a conservator's resignation. Upon the conservator's death, resignation, or removal, the court may appoint another conservator. A conservator so appointed succeeds to the title and powers of the predecessor.

Sec. 5415. (1) A person interested in the welfare of an individual for whom a conservator is appointed may file a petition in the appointing court for an order to do any of the following:

- (a) Require bond or security or additional bond or security, or reduce bond.
- (b) Require an accounting for the administration of the trust.
- (c) Direct distribution.
- (d) Remove the conservator and appoint a temporary or successor conservator.
- (e) Grant other appropriate relief.

(2) A conservator may petition the appointing court for instructions concerning fiduciary responsibility. Upon notice and hearing, the court may give appropriate instructions or make an appropriate order.

Sec. 5416. In relation to powers conferred by this part or implicit in the title acquired by virtue of the proceeding, a conservator shall act as a fiduciary and observe the standard of care applicable to a trustee.

Sec. 5417. (1) Within 63 days after appointment or within another time period specified by court rule, a conservator must prepare and file with the appointing court a complete inventory of the estate subject to the conservatorship together with an oath or affirmation that the inventory is believed to be complete and accurate so far as information permits. The conservator must provide a copy of the inventory to the protected individual if the individual can be located and if the individual is 14 years of age or older and has sufficient mental capacity to understand the arrangement. A copy must also be provided to a parent or guardian with whom the protected individual resides.

(2) The conservator must keep suitable records of the administration and exhibit those records on the request of an interested person.

Sec. 5418. A conservator shall account to the court for administration of the trust not less than annually unless the court directs otherwise, upon resignation or removal, and at other times as the court directs. On termination of the protected individual's minority or disability, a conservator shall account to the court or to the formerly protected individual or that individual's successors. Subject to appeal or vacation within the time permitted, an order, after notice and hearing, allowing an intermediate account of a conservator adjudicates as to liabilities concerning the matters considered in connection with the accounts, and an order, after notice and hearing, allowing a final account adjudicates

as to all previously unsettled liabilities of the conservator to the protected individual or the protected individual's successors relating to the conservatorship. In connection with any account, the court may require a conservator to submit to a physical check of the estate to be made in any manner the court specifies.

Sec. 5419. (1) Appointment of a conservator vests in the conservator title as trustee to all of the protected individual's property, or to the part of that property specified in the order, held at the time of or acquired after the order, including title to property held for the protected individual by a custodian or attorney-in-fact. An order specifying that only a part of the protected individual's property vests in the conservator creates a limited conservatorship.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in this act, the protected individual's interest in property vested in a conservator by this section is not transferable or assignable by the protected individual. Though ineffective to affect property rights, an attempted transfer or assignment by the protected individual may generate a claim for restitution or damages that, subject to presentation and allowance, may be satisfied as provided in section 5429.

(3) Property vested in a conservator by this section and the protected individual's interest in that property is not subject to levy, garnishment, or similar process other than an order issued in the protective proceeding made as provided in section 5429.

Sec. 5420. (1) Letters of conservatorship are evidence of transfer of all of the protected individual's property, or the part of that property specified in the letters, to the conservator. An order terminating a conservatorship is evidence of transfer of the property subjected to the conservatorship from the conservator to the protected individual or that individual's successors.

(2) Subject to the requirements of general statutes governing the filing or recordation of documents of title to land or other property, letters of conservatorship or an order terminating a conservatorship may be filed or recorded to give record notice of title as between the conservator and the protected individual.

Sec. 5421. A sale or encumbrance to a conservator, to the conservator's spouse, agent, or attorney, or to a corporation, trust, or other organization in which the conservator has a substantial beneficial interest, or a transaction involving the estate being administered by the conservator that is affected by a substantial conflict between fiduciary and personal interests, is voidable unless the transaction is approved by the court after notice as directed by the court.

Sec. 5422. (1) A person who in good faith either assists or deals with a conservator for value in a transaction other than those requiring a court order as provided in section 5407 is protected as if the conservator properly exercised the power. The fact that a person knowingly deals with a conservator does not alone require the person to inquire into the existence of a power or the propriety of its exercise, but a restriction on a conservator's powers that is endorsed on letters as provided in section 5427 is effective as to third persons. A person is not bound to see to the proper application of estate property paid or delivered to a conservator.

(2) The protection expressed in this section extends to a procedural irregularity or jurisdictional defect that occurs in a proceeding leading to the issuance of letters and is not a substitution for protection provided by a comparable provision of the law relating to a commercial transaction or to simplifying a transfer of securities by a fiduciary.

Sec. 5423. (1) Subject to a limitation provided in section 5427, a conservator has all of the powers conferred in this section and the additional powers conferred by law on trustees in this state. In addition, a conservator of the estate of an unmarried minor, as to whom no one has parental rights, has the powers, responsibilities, and duties of a guardian described in section 5215 until the individual is no longer a minor or marries. The parental rights conferred on a conservator by this section do not preclude a guardian's appointment as provided in part 2.

(2) Acting reasonably in an effort to accomplish the purpose of the appointment and without court authorization or confirmation, a conservator may do any of the following:

(a) Collect, hold, or retain estate property, including land in another state, until judging that disposition of the property should be made. Property may be retained even though it includes property in which the conservator is personally interested.

(b) Receive an addition to the estate.

(c) Continue or participate in the operation of a business or other enterprise.

(d) Acquire an undivided interest in estate property in which the conservator, in a fiduciary capacity, holds an undivided interest.

(e) Invest or reinvest estate property. If the conservator exercises the power conferred by this subdivision, the conservator must invest or reinvest the property in accordance with the Michigan prudent investor rule.

(f) Deposit estate money in a state or federally insured financial institution including one operated by the conservator.

(g) Acquire or dispose of estate property, including land in another state, for cash or on credit, at public or private sale, or manage, develop, improve, exchange, partition, change the character of, or abandon estate property.

(h) Make an ordinary or extraordinary repair or alteration in a building or other structure, demolish an improvement, or raze an existing or erect a new party wall or building.

(i) Subdivide, develop, or dedicate land to public use; make or obtain the vacation of a plat or adjust a boundary; adjust a difference in valuation on exchange or partition by giving or receiving consideration; or dedicate an easement to public use without consideration.

(j) Enter for any purpose into a lease as lessor or lessee with or without option to purchase or renew for a term within or extending beyond the term of the conservatorship.

(k) Enter into a lease or arrangement for exploration and removal of a mineral or other natural resource or enter into a pooling or unitization agreement.

(l) Grant an option involving disposition of estate property or take an option for the acquisition of property.

(m) Vote a security, in person or by general or limited proxy.

(n) Pay a call, assessment, or another amount chargeable or accruing against or on account of a security.

(o) Sell or exercise stock subscription or conversion rights.

(p) Consent, directly or through a committee or other agent, to the reorganization, consolidation, merger, dissolution, or liquidation of a corporation or other business enterprise.

(q) Hold a security in the name of a nominee or in other form without disclosure of the conservatorship so that title to the security may pass by delivery. However, the conservator is liable for an act of the nominee in connection with the stock so held.

(r) Insure the estate property against damage or loss or the conservator against liability with respect to third persons.

(s) Borrow money to be repaid from estate property or otherwise.

(t) Advance money for the protection of the estate or the protected individual, and for all expense, loss, or liability sustained in the estate's administration or because of the holding or ownership of estate property, for which the conservator has a lien on the estate as against the protected individual for an advance so made.

(u) Pay or contest a claim; settle a claim by or against the estate or the protected individual by compromise, arbitration, or otherwise; and release, in whole or in part, a claim belonging to the estate to the extent that the claim is uncollectible.

(v) Pay a tax, assessment, conservator's compensation, or other expense incurred in the estate's collection, care, administration, and protection.

(w) Allocate an item of income or expense to either estate income or principal, as provided by law, including creation of a reserve out of income for depreciation, obsolescence, or amortization, or for depletion in a mineral or timber property.

(x) Pay money distributable to a protected individual or the protected individual's dependent by paying the money to the distributee or by paying the money for the use of the distributee to the distributee's guardian, or if none, to a relative or other person having custody of the distributee.

(y) Employ a person, including an auditor, investment advisor, or agent, even though the person is associated with the conservator, to advise or assist in the performance of an administrative duty; act upon the person's recommendation without independent investigation; and, instead of acting personally, employ an agent to perform an act of administration, whether or not discretionary.

(z) Employ an attorney to perform necessary legal services or to advise or assist the conservator in the performance of the conservator's administrative duties. An attorney employed under this subdivision shall receive reasonable compensation for that employment.

(aa) Prosecute or defend an action, claim, or proceeding in any jurisdiction for the protection of estate property and of the conservator in the performance of a fiduciary duty.

(bb) Execute and deliver an instrument that will accomplish or facilitate the exercise of a power vested in the conservator.

(cc) Respond to an environmental concern or hazard affecting property as provided in section 5424.

Sec. 5424. (1) To respond to an environmental concern or hazard affecting property, the conservator may do any of the following:

(a) Inspect property and the operation of business activity on property held by the conservator, including property held in or operated by a sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, or limited liability company for the purpose of



determining compliance with environmental law affecting the property, and respond to an actual or threatened violation of an environmental law affecting property held by the conservator.

(b) Take action necessary to prevent, abate, or otherwise remedy an actual or threatened violation of an environmental law affecting property held by the conservator, either before or after the initiation of an enforcement action by a governmental body.

(c) Settle or compromise at any time a claim against the estate that is asserted by a governmental body or private party involving the alleged violation of an environmental law affecting property held in the trust or estate.

(d) Disclaim a power granted by a document, statute, or rule of law that, in the sole discretion of the conservator, may cause the conservator to incur personal liability under an environmental law.

(e) Decline to serve or resign as a conservator if the conservator reasonably believes that there is or may be a conflict of interest between the conservator in its fiduciary capacity and in its individual capacity because of a potential claim or liability that may be asserted against the conservator on behalf of the estate because of the type or condition of property held in the estate.

(f) Charge the cost of an inspection, review, abatement, response, cleanup, claim settlement, or remedial action authorized in this section against the estate income or principal.

(2) The powers listed in subsection (1) are by way of enumeration and not limitation on the conservator's power to respond to an environmental concern or hazard.

(3) A conservator is not personally liable to a beneficiary or other party for a decrease in the value of estate property by reason of the conservator's compliance with an environmental law, specifically including a reporting requirement under such a law. Neither the acceptance by the conservator of property nor a failure by the conservator to inspect property or a business operation creates an inference that there is or may be liability under an environmental law with respect to the property or business operation. The authority granted by this section is solely to facilitate the administration and protection of estate property and is not to impose greater responsibility or liability on the conservator than imposed by law absent these provisions.

Sec. 5425. A conservator may expend or distribute estate income or principal without court authorization or confirmation for the support, education, care, or benefit of the protected individual or the protected individual's dependents in accordance with the following principles:

(a) The conservator shall consider a recommendation relating to the appropriate standard of support, education, and benefit for the protected individual or a dependent made by a parent or guardian, if any. The conservator shall not be surcharged for money paid to a person or organization furnishing support, education, or care to the protected individual or a dependent in compliance with the recommendation of the protected individual's parent or guardian unless the conservator knows that the parent or guardian derives personal financial benefit from that payment, including a benefit by relief from a personal duty of support, or that the recommendation is clearly not in the protected individual's best interests.

(b) The conservator shall expend or distribute money reasonably necessary for the support, education, care, or benefit of the protected individual or a dependent with due regard to all of the following:

(i) The estate size, the conservatorship's probable duration, and the likelihood that the protected individual, at some future time, may be fully able to be wholly self-sufficient and able to manage business affairs and the estate.

(ii) The accustomed standard of living of the protected individual and the dependents.

(iii) Other money or sources used for the protected individual's support.

(c) The conservator may expend estate money for the support of an individual legally dependent on the protected individual and others who are members of the protected individual's household who are unable to support themselves and who are in need of support.

(d) The conservator may pay money to be expended under this section to any person, including the protected individual, to reimburse for an expenditure that the conservator might have made or in advance for a service to be rendered to the protected individual, if it is reasonable to expect the service will be performed and an advance payment is customary or reasonably necessary under the circumstances.

(e) In discharging a responsibility conferred by court order or this part, a conservator shall implement the principles described in section 5407(1) to the extent possible.

Sec. 5426. (1) If the estate is more than sufficient to provide for the purposes implicit in the distributions authorized by section 5425, a conservator for the protected individual, other than a minor, has the power to make a gift to charity or another object, as the protected individual might have been expected to make, in amounts that do not exceed an annual total of 20% of the estate income.

(2) If a minor who has not been adjudged disabled under section 5401(3) attains majority, after the conservator meets all claims and expenses of administration and accounts to the court if required to do so by the court or by court

rule, the conservator shall pay over and distribute all money and property to the formerly protected individual as soon as possible.

(3) If satisfied that a protected individual's disability, other than minority, has ceased, and after meeting all claims and expenses of administration, the conservator shall pay over and distribute all money and property to the formerly protected individual as soon as possible.

(4) If a protected individual dies, the conservator shall deliver to the court for safekeeping a will of the deceased protected individual that has come into the conservator's possession, shall inform the personal representative or a beneficiary named in the will of the delivery, and shall retain the estate for delivery to a duly appointed personal representative of the decedent or another person entitled to the delivery. If within 42 days after the protected individual's death another person is not appointed personal representative and an application or petition for appointment is not before the court, the conservator may petition to exercise a personal representative's powers and duties in order to be able to proceed to administer and distribute the decedent's estate. Upon petition for an order granting a personal representative's powers to a conservator, after notice to a person nominated as personal representative by a will of which the petitioner is aware and after notice as described in section 1401, the court may grant the petition upon determining that there is no objection and may endorse the letters of the conservator to note that the formerly protected individual is deceased and that the conservator has all of the powers and duties of a personal representative. An order made and entered under this section has the effect of an order for a personal representative's appointment as provided in section 3307 and parts 6 to 10 of article III. However, after administration, the estate in the conservator's name may be distributed to the decedent's successors without prior retransfer to the conservator as personal representative.

Sec. 5427. Subject to the restrictions in section 5407(3), at the time of appointment or later, the court may confer on a conservator, in addition to the powers conferred by sections 5423 to 5426, any power that the court itself could exercise under section 5407(2)(b) and (c). At the time of appointment or later, the court may limit the powers of a conservator otherwise conferred by sections 5423 to 5426 or previously conferred by the court, and may at any time remove or modify a limitation. If the court limits a power conferred on the conservator by sections 5423 to 5426 or specifies, as provided in section 5419(1), that title to some, but not all, of the protected individual's property vests in the conservator, the limitation or specification of property subject to the conservatorship shall be endorsed upon the letters of appointment.

Sec. 5428. (1) When doing any of the following, the conservator and the court shall take into account the protected individual's estate plan as known to them, including a will, a revocable trust of which the individual is settlor, and a contract, transfer, or joint ownership arrangement originated by the protected individual with provisions for payment or transfer of a benefit or interest at the individual's death to another or others:

- (a) Investing the estate.
- (b) Selecting estate property for distribution under section 5425 or 5426(1).
- (c) Utilizing a power of revocation or withdrawal available for the protected individual's support and exercisable by the conservator or the court.

(2) The conservator may examine the protected individual's will.

Sec. 5429. (1) A conservator may pay or secure from the estate a claim against the estate or against the protected individual arising before or during the conservatorship upon the presentation of the claim and allowance in accordance with the priorities in subsection (4). A claim may be presented by either of the following methods:

(a) The claimant may deliver or mail to the conservator a written statement of the claim indicating its basis, the name and mailing address of the claimant, and the amount claimed.

(b) The claimant may file a written statement of the claim with the court in the form prescribed by court rule and may deliver or mail a copy of the statement to the conservator.

(2) The court shall consider a claim presented when the conservator receives the written statement of claim or when the claim is filed with the court, whichever happens first. A presented claim is allowed if it is not disallowed by written statement mailed by the conservator to the claimant within 63 days after the presentation of the claim. The presentation of a claim tolls a statute of limitations relating to the claim until 28 days after the claim's disallowance.

(3) A claimant whose claim has not been paid may petition the court for determination of the claim at any time before it is barred by the applicable statute of limitations and, upon due proof, may procure an order for the claim's allowance, payment, or security from the estate. If a proceeding is pending against a protected individual at the time of the appointment of a conservator or is initiated against the protected individual after the appointment, the moving party shall give notice of the proceeding to the conservator if the proceeding could result in creating a claim against the estate.

(4) If it appears that the estate in conservatorship is likely to be exhausted before all existing claims are paid, the conservator shall distribute the estate in money or in kind in payment of claims in the following order:

- (a) Costs and expenses of administration.
- (b) Claims of the federal or state government having priority under law.
- (c) Claims incurred by the conservator for care, maintenance, and education that were previously provided to the protected individual or the protected individual's dependents.
- (d) Claims arising before the conservatorship.
- (e) All other claims.

(5) A preference shall not be given in the payment of a claim over another claim of the same class, and a claim due and payable is not entitled to a preference over a claim not due. However, if it appears that the assets of the conservatorship are adequate to meet all existing claims, acting in the protected individual's best interest, the court may order the conservator to give a mortgage or other security on the conservatorship estate to secure payment at some future date of any or all claims listed in subsection (4)(e).

(6) If a protected individual dies while under conservatorship, upon petition of the conservator and with or without notice, the court may hear a claim for burial expense or another claim as the court considers advisable. Upon hearing the claim, the court may enter an order allowing or disallowing the claim or a part of it and may provide in an order of allowance that the claim or a part of it shall be paid immediately if payment can be made without injury or serious inconvenience to the protected individual's estate.

Sec. 5430. (1) Unless otherwise provided in the contract, a conservator is not individually liable on a contract properly entered into in a fiduciary capacity in the course of estate administration unless the conservator fails to reveal the representative capacity and identify the estate in the contract.

(2) A conservator is personally liable for an obligation arising from ownership or control of estate property or for torts committed in the course of estate administration only if personally at fault.

(3) A claim based on a contract entered into by a conservator in a fiduciary capacity, an obligation arising from ownership or control of the estate, or a tort committed in the course of estate administration may be asserted against the estate by proceeding against the conservator in the conservator's fiduciary capacity, whether or not the conservator is personally liable for the claim.

(4) A question of liability between the estate and the conservator personally may be determined in a proceeding for accounting, surcharge, indemnification, or other appropriate proceeding or action.

Sec. 5431. The protected individual, conservator, or another interested person may petition the court to terminate the conservatorship. A protected individual seeking termination is entitled to the same rights and procedures as in an original proceeding for a protective order. Upon determining, after notice and hearing, that the minority or disability of the protected individual has ceased, the court shall terminate the conservatorship. Upon termination, title to the estate property passes to the formerly protected individual or to successors subject to the provision in the order for expenses of administration and to directions for the conservator to execute appropriate instruments to evidence the transfer.

Sec. 5432. (1) A person indebted to a protected individual or having possession of property or of an instrument evidencing a debt, stock, or chose in action belonging to a protected individual may pay or deliver the money, property, or instrument to a conservator, guardian of the estate, or other similar fiduciary appointed by a court of the protected individual's state of residence upon being presented with proof of appointment and a sworn statement made by or on behalf of the fiduciary stating both of the following:

- (a) That no protective proceeding that relates to the protected individual is pending in this state.
- (b) That the foreign fiduciary is entitled to payment or to receive delivery.

(2) If the person to whom the sworn statement is presented is not aware of a protective proceeding pending in this state, payment or delivery in response to the demand and sworn statement discharges the debtor or possessor.

Sec. 5433. If a conservator has not been appointed in this state and a petition in a protective proceeding is not pending in this state, a conservator appointed in the state in which the protected individual resides may file in a court of this state, in a county in which property belonging to the protected individual is located, an authenticated copy of letters of appointment and of any bond. After the filing, the domiciliary foreign conservator may exercise as to property in this state all the powers of a conservator appointed in this state and may maintain an action or proceeding in this state subject to any conditions imposed upon nonresident parties generally.

## PART 5

### DURABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY AND DESIGNATION OF PATIENT ADVOCATE

Sec. 5501. A durable power of attorney is a power of attorney by which a principal designates another as the principal's attorney in fact in writing and the writing contains the words "This power of attorney is not affected by the principal's subsequent disability or incapacity, or by the lapse of time", or "This power of attorney is effective upon the disability or incapacity of the principal", or similar words showing the principal's intent that the authority conferred is exercisable notwithstanding the principal's subsequent disability or incapacity and, unless the power states a termination time, notwithstanding the lapse of time since the execution of the instrument.

Sec. 5502. An act done by an attorney in fact under a durable power of attorney during a period of disability or incapacity of the principal has the same effect and inures to the benefit of and binds the principal and the principal's successors in interest as if the principal were competent and not disabled. Unless the instrument states a termination time, the power is exercisable notwithstanding the lapse of time since the execution of the instrument. A durable power of attorney that authorizes the agent to convey or otherwise exercise power over real estate does not need to contain the real estate's legal description.

Sec. 5503. (1) If, following execution of a durable power of attorney, a court of the principal's domicile appoints a conservator, estate guardian, or other fiduciary charged with the management of all of the principal's property or all of his or her property except specified exclusions, the attorney in fact is accountable to the fiduciary as well as to the principal. The fiduciary has the same power to revoke or amend the power of attorney that the principal would have had if he or she were not disabled or incapacitated.

(2) By a durable power of attorney, a principal may nominate the conservator, guardian of his or her estate, or guardian of his or her person for consideration by the court if a protective proceeding for the principal's person or estate is commenced after execution of the power of attorney. The court shall make its appointment in accordance with the principal's most recent nomination in a durable power of attorney except for good cause or disqualification.

Sec. 5504. (1) The death of a principal who has executed a written power of attorney, durable or otherwise, does not revoke or terminate the agency as to the attorney in fact or other person who, without actual knowledge of the principal's death, acts in good faith under the power. An action taken as provided in this subsection, unless otherwise invalid or unenforceable, binds the principal's successors in interest.

(2) The disability or incapacity of a principal who has previously executed a written power of attorney that is not a durable power does not revoke or terminate the agency as to the attorney in fact or other person who, without actual knowledge of the principal's disability or incapacity, acts in good faith under the power. An action taken as provided in this subsection, unless otherwise invalid or unenforceable, binds the principal and his or her successors in interest.

Sec. 5505. (1) If an attorney in fact acts in good-faith reliance on a power of attorney, durable or otherwise, and executes a sworn statement stating that, at the time of the action, the attorney in fact did not have actual knowledge of the principal's death, disability, or incapacity or of the power's termination by revocation, the sworn statement is, in the absence of fraud, conclusive proof of the power's nontermination or nonrevocation.

(2) If the exercise of the power of attorney requires execution and delivery of an instrument that is recordable, the sworn statement when authenticated for record is also recordable.

(3) This section does not affect a provision in a power of attorney for its termination by expiration of time or occurrence of an event other than express revocation or a change in the principal's capacity.

Sec. 5506. (1) An individual 18 years of age or older who is of sound mind at the time the designation is made may designate in writing another individual who is 18 years of age or older to exercise powers concerning care, custody, and medical treatment decisions for the individual making the designation. For purposes of this section and sections 5507 to 5512, an individual who is named in a designation to exercise powers concerning care, custody, and medical treatment decisions is known as a patient advocate and an individual who makes a designation is known as a patient.

(2) A designation under this section must be in writing, signed, witnessed as provided in subsection (3), dated, executed voluntarily, and, before its implementation, made part of the patient's medical record with the patient's attending physician and, if applicable, with the facility where the patient is located. The designation must include a statement that the authority conferred under this section is exercisable only when the patient is unable to participate in medical treatment decisions.

(3) A designation under this section must be executed in the presence of and signed by 2 witnesses. A witness under this section shall not be the patient's spouse, parent, child, grandchild, sibling, presumptive heir, known devisee at the time of the witnessing, physician, or patient advocate or an employee of a life or health insurance provider for the patient, of a health facility that is treating the patient, or of a home for the aged as defined in section 20106 of the public

health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.20106, where the patient resides. A witness shall not sign the designation unless the patient appears to be of sound mind and under no duress, fraud, or undue influence.

Sec. 5507. (1) A patient advocate designation may include a statement of the patient's desires on care, custody, and medical treatment. The patient may authorize the patient advocate to exercise 1 or more powers concerning the patient's care, custody, and medical treatment that the patient could have exercised on his or her own behalf.

(2) A patient may designate in the designation a successor individual as a patient advocate who may exercise powers concerning care, custody, and medical treatment decisions for the patient if the first individual named as patient advocate does not accept, is incapacitated, resigns, or is removed.

(3) Before a patient advocate designation is implemented, a copy of the designation must be given to the proposed patient advocate and must be given to a successor patient advocate before the successor acts as patient advocate. Before acting as a patient advocate, the proposed patient advocate must sign an acceptance of the designation.

(4) The acceptance of a designation as a patient advocate must include substantially all of the following statements:

1. This designation is not effective unless the patient is unable to participate in medical treatment decisions.

2. A patient advocate shall not exercise powers concerning the patient's care, custody, and medical treatment that the patient, if the patient were able to participate in the decision, could not have exercised on his or her own behalf.

3. This designation cannot be used to make a medical treatment decision to withhold or withdraw treatment from a patient who is pregnant that would result in the pregnant patient's death.

4. A patient advocate may make a decision to withhold or withdraw treatment that would allow a patient to die only if the patient has expressed in a clear and convincing manner that the patient advocate is authorized to make such a decision, and that the patient acknowledges that such a decision could or would allow the patient's death.

5. A patient advocate shall not receive compensation for the performance of his or her authority, rights, and responsibilities, but a patient advocate may be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of his or her authority, rights, and responsibilities.

6. A patient advocate shall act in accordance with the standards of care applicable to fiduciaries when acting for the patient and shall act consistent with the patient's best interests. The known desires of the patient expressed or evidenced while the patient is able to participate in medical treatment decisions are presumed to be in the patient's best interests.

7. A patient may revoke his or her designation at any time and in any manner sufficient to communicate an intent to revoke.

8. A patient advocate may revoke his or her acceptance to the designation at any time and in any manner sufficient to communicate an intent to revoke.

9. A patient admitted to a health facility or agency has the rights enumerated in section 20201 of the public health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.20201.

Sec. 5508. (1) The authority under a patient advocate designation is exercisable by a patient advocate only when the patient is unable to participate in medical treatment decisions. The patient's attending physician and another physician or licensed psychologist shall determine upon examination of the patient when the patient is unable to participate in medical treatment decisions, shall put the determination in writing, shall make the determination part of the patient's medical record, and shall review the determination not less than annually. If the patient's religious beliefs prohibit an examination and this is stated in the designation, the patient must indicate in the designation how it shall be determined when the patient advocate exercises powers concerning decisions on behalf of the patient.

(2) If a dispute arises as to whether the patient is unable to participate in medical treatment decisions, a petition may be filed with the court in the county in which the patient resides or is found requesting the court's determination as to whether the patient is unable to participate in medical treatment decisions. If a petition is filed under this subsection, the court shall appoint a guardian ad litem to represent the patient for the purposes of this subsection. The court shall conduct a hearing on a petition under this subsection as soon as possible and not later than 7 days after the court receives the petition. As soon as possible and not later than 7 days after the hearing, the court shall determine whether or not the patient is able to participate in medical treatment decisions. If the court determines that the patient is unable to participate in medical treatment decisions, the patient advocate's authority, rights, and responsibilities are effective. If the court determines that the patient is able to participate in medical treatment decisions, the patient advocate's authority, rights, and responsibilities are not effective.

Sec. 5509. (1) An individual designated as a patient advocate has the following authority, rights, responsibilities, and limitations:

(a) A patient advocate shall act in accordance with the standards of care applicable to fiduciaries in exercising his or her powers.

(b) A patient advocate shall take reasonable steps to follow the desires, instructions, or guidelines given by the patient while the patient was able to participate in care, custody, or medical treatment decisions, whether given orally or as written in the designation.

(c) A patient advocate shall not exercise powers concerning the patient's care, custody, and medical treatment that the patient, if the patient were able to participate in the decision, could not have exercised on his or her own behalf.

(d) This designation cannot be used to make a medical treatment decision to withhold or withdraw treatment from a patient who is pregnant that would result in the pregnant patient's death.

(e) A patient advocate may make a decision to withhold or withdraw treatment that would allow a patient to die only if the patient has expressed in a clear and convincing manner that the patient advocate is authorized to make such a decision, and that the patient acknowledges that such a decision could or would allow the patient's death.

(f) A patient advocate under this section shall not delegate his or her powers to another individual without prior authorization by the patient.

(2) A patient advocate designation is suspended when the patient regains the ability to participate in medical treatment decisions. The suspension is effective as long as the patient is able to participate in medical treatment decisions. If the patient subsequently is determined under section 5508 to be unable to participate in medical treatment decisions, the patient advocate's authority, rights, responsibilities, and limitations are again effective.

Sec. 5510. (1) A patient advocate designation is revoked by any of the following:

(a) The patient's death.

(b) An order of removal by the probate court under section 5511(4).

(c) The patient advocate's resignation or removal by the court, unless a successor patient advocate has been designated.

(d) The patient's revocation of the designation. Even if the patient is unable to participate in medical treatment decisions, a patient may revoke a designation at any time and in any manner by which he or she is able to communicate an intent to revoke the designation. If there is a dispute as to the intent of the patient to revoke the designation, the court may make a determination on the patient's intent to revoke the designation. If the revocation is not in writing, an individual who witnesses a revocation of a designation shall describe in writing the circumstances of the revocation, must sign the writing, and shall notify, if possible, the patient advocate of the revocation. If the patient's physician or health facility has notice of the patient's revocation of a designation, the physician or health facility shall note the revocation in the patient's medical records and bedside chart and must notify the patient advocate.

(e) A subsequent designation that revokes the prior designation either expressly or by inconsistency.

(f) The occurrence of a provision for revocation contained in the designation.

(g) If a designation is executed during a patient's marriage naming the patient's spouse as the patient advocate, the designation is suspended during the pendency of an action for separate maintenance, annulment, or divorce and is revoked upon the entry of a judgment of separate maintenance, annulment, or divorce, unless the patient has named a successor individual to serve as a patient advocate. If a successor patient advocate is named, that individual acts as the patient advocate.

(2) The revocation of a patient advocate designation under subsection (1) does not revoke or terminate the agency as to the patient advocate or other person who acts in good faith under the designation and without actual knowledge of the revocation. Unless the action is otherwise invalid or unenforceable, an action taken without knowledge of the revocation binds the patient and his or her heirs, devisees, and personal representatives. A sworn statement executed by the patient advocate stating that, at the time of doing an act in accordance with the designation, he or she did not have actual knowledge of the revocation of the designation is, in the absence of fraud, conclusive proof that the patient advocate did not have actual knowledge of the revocation at the time of the act.

Sec. 5511. (1) Irrespective of a previously expressed or evidenced desire, a current desire by a patient to have provided, and not withheld or withdrawn, a specific life-extending care, custody, or medical treatment is binding on the patient advocate, if known by the patient advocate, regardless of the then ability or inability of the patient to participate in care, custody, or medical treatment decisions or the patient's competency.

(2) A person providing, performing, withholding, or withdrawing care, custody, or medical treatment as a result of the decision of an individual who is reasonably believed to be a patient advocate and who is reasonably believed to be acting within the authority granted by the designation is liable in the same manner and to the same extent as if the patient had made the decision on his or her own behalf.

(3) A person providing care, custody, or medical treatment to a patient is bound by sound medical practice and by a patient advocate's instructions if the patient advocate complies with sections 5506 to 5512, but is not bound by the patient advocate's instructions if the patient advocate does not comply with these sections.

(4) If a dispute arises as to whether a patient advocate is acting consistent with the patient's best interests or is not complying with sections 5506 to 5512, a petition may be filed with the court in the county in which the patient resides or is found requesting the court's determination as to the continuation of the designation or the removal of the patient advocate.

Sec. 5512. (1) A patient advocate cannot make a medical treatment decision under the authority of or under the process created by this section and sections 5506 to 5511 to withhold or withdraw treatment from a pregnant patient that would result in the pregnant patient's death.

(2) A health care provider shall not require a patient advocate designation to be executed as a condition of providing, withholding, or withdrawing care, custody, or medical treatment.

(3) A life or health insurer shall not do any of the following because of the execution or implementation of a patient advocate designation or because of the failure or refusal to execute or implement such a designation:

- (a) Refuse to provide or continue coverage to the patient.
- (b) Limit the amount of coverage available to a patient.
- (c) Charge a patient a different rate.
- (d) Consider the terms of an existing policy of life or health insurance to have been breached or modified.
- (e) Invoke a suicide or intentional death exemption or exclusion in a policy covering the patient.

(4) A patient advocate designation shall not be construed to condone, allow, permit, authorize, or approve suicide or homicide.

(5) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (3), this section and sections 5506 to 5511 only apply to or affect an individual who has executed a patient advocate designation or an individual acting for or on behalf of another individual who has executed a patient advocate designation.

(6) Nothing in this section or sections 5506 to 5511 shall be considered to authorize or compel care, custody, or medical treatment decisions for a patient who objects on religious grounds.

(7) A designation executed before the effective date of this section with the intent of accomplishing a similar purpose as this section is valid but is subject to this section, section 5506(1), and sections 5507 to 5511; must be in writing, signed, witnessed or notarized, dated, and executed voluntarily; and, before its implementation, must be made part of the patient's medical record.

Sec. 5513. If a provision of this article conflicts with a provision of the mental health code, 1974 PA 258, MCL 330.1001 to 330.2106, that act controls.

## ARTICLE VI

### NONPROBATE TRANSFERS ON DEATH

#### PART 1

#### EFFECT OF DEATH

Sec. 6101. (1) A provision for a nonprobate transfer on death in an insurance policy, contract of employment, bond, mortgage, promissory note, certificated or uncertificated security, account agreement, custodial agreement, deposit agreement, compensation plan, pension plan, individual retirement plan, employee benefit plan, trust, conveyance, deed of gift, marital property agreement, or other written instrument of similar nature is nontestamentary. This subsection includes a written provision in the instrument that is intended to result in 1 or more of the following:

(a) Money or another benefit due to, controlled by, or owned by a decedent before death is paid after the decedent's death to a person, including a testamentary trustee, whom the decedent designates either in the instrument or in a separate writing, including a will, executed either before, at the same time as, or after the instrument.

(b) Money due or to become due under the instrument ceases to be payable in the event of death of the promisee or the promisor before payment or demand.

(c) Property the decedent controls or owns before death that is the subject of the instrument passes to a person the decedent designates either in the instrument or in a separate writing, including a will, executed either before, at the same time as, or after the instrument.

(2) This section does not limit creditors' rights under another law of this state or another state or under federal law.

PART 3  
UNIFORM TOD SECURITY REGISTRATION

Sec. 6301. As used in this part:

(a) "Beneficiary form" means a registration of a security that indicates the present owner of the security and the owner's intention regarding the person who will become the security's owner upon the owner's death.

(b) "Register" means to issue a certificate showing the ownership of a certificated security or, in the case of an uncertificated security, to initiate or transfer an account showing ownership of securities.

(c) "Registering entity" means a person who originates or transfers a security title by registration, and includes a broker maintaining security accounts for customers and a transfer agent or other person acting for or as an issuer of securities.

(d) "Security" means a share, participation, or other interest in property, in a business, or in an obligation of an enterprise or other issuer, and includes a certificated security, uncertificated security, and security account.

(e) "Security account" includes all of the following:

(i) A reinvestment account associated with a security.

(ii) A securities account with a broker, financial institution, or subsidiary or affiliate of a financial institution.

(iii) A cash balance in an account with a broker, financial institution, or subsidiary or affiliate of a financial institution, whether or not credited to the account before the owner's death.

(iv) Cash, interest, earnings, or dividends earned or declared on a security in an account, reinvestment account, or account with a broker, financial institution, or subsidiary or affiliate of a financial institution, whether or not credited to the account before the owner's death.

(v) A cash balance or other property held for or due to the owner of a security as a replacement for or product of an account security, whether or not credited to the account before the owner's death.

Sec. 6302. Only an individual whose registration of a security shows sole ownership by 1 individual or multiple ownership by 2 or more with right of survivorship, rather than as tenants in common, may obtain registration in beneficiary form. Multiple owners of a security registered in beneficiary form hold as joint tenants with right of survivorship, as tenants by the entireties, or as owners of community property held in survivorship form, and not as tenants in common.

Sec. 6303. A security may be registered in beneficiary form if the form is authorized by this or a similar statute of the state of organization of the issuer or registering entity, the location of the registering entity's principal office, or the office of its transfer agent or its office making the registration or by this or a similar statute of the law of the state listed as the owner's address at the time of registration. A registration governed by the law of a jurisdiction in which this or similar legislation is not in force or was not in force when a registration in beneficiary form was made is nevertheless presumed to be valid and authorized as a matter of contract law.

Sec. 6304. Whether evidenced by certificate or account, a security is registered in beneficiary form when the registration includes a designation of a beneficiary to take the ownership at the death of the owner or the deaths of all multiple owners.

Sec. 6305. Registration in beneficiary form may be shown by the words "transfer on death" or the abbreviation "TOD", or by the words "pay on death" or the abbreviation "POD", after the name of the registered owner and before the name of a beneficiary.

Sec. 6306. The designation of a TOD beneficiary on a registration in beneficiary form does not effect ownership until the owner's death. A registration of a security in beneficiary form may be canceled or changed at any time by the sole owner or all the surviving owners without the consent of the beneficiary.

Sec. 6307. On death of a sole owner or the last to die of all multiple owners, ownership of securities registered in beneficiary form passes to the beneficiary or beneficiaries who survived all owners. On proof of death of all owners and compliance with any applicable requirements of the registering entity, a security registered in beneficiary form may be reregistered in the name of the beneficiary or beneficiaries who survived the death of all owners. Until division of the security after the death of all owners, multiple beneficiaries surviving the death of all owners hold their interests as



tenants in common. If no beneficiary survives the death of all owners, the security belongs to the estate of the deceased sole owner or the estate of the last to die of all multiple owners.

Sec. 6308. (1) A registering entity is not required to offer or to accept a request for security registration in beneficiary form. If a registration in beneficiary form is offered by a registering entity, the owner requesting registration in beneficiary form assents to the protections given to the registering entity by this part.

(2) By accepting a request for registration of a security in beneficiary form, the registering entity agrees that the registration will be implemented on the deceased owner's death as provided in this part.

(3) A registering entity is discharged from all claims to a security by a deceased owner's estate, creditors, heirs, or devisees if the entity registers a transfer of the security in accordance with section 6307 and does so in good-faith reliance on all of the following:

(a) The registration.

(b) This part.

(c) Information provided to it by a sworn statement of the deceased owner's personal representative, or by the surviving beneficiary or by the surviving beneficiary's representatives, or other information available to the registering entity.

(4) This part's protections do not extend to a reregistration or payment made after a registering entity receives written notice from a claimant to an interest in the security objecting to implementation of a registration in beneficiary form. No other notice or other information available to the registering entity affects its right to protection under this part.

(5) The protection provided by this part to the registering entity of a security does not affect the rights of beneficiaries in disputes between themselves and other claimants to ownership of the security transferred or its value or proceeds.

Sec. 6309. (1) A transfer on death resulting from a registration in beneficiary form is effective by reason of the contract regarding the registration between the owner and the registering entity and this part, and is not testamentary.

(2) This part does not limit the rights of creditors of security owners against beneficiaries and other transferees under other laws of this state.

Sec. 6310. (1) A registering entity offering to accept registrations in beneficiary form may establish the terms and conditions under which it will receive requests for registrations in beneficiary form or for implementation of registrations in beneficiary form, including requests for cancellation of previously registered TOD beneficiary designations and requests for reregistration to effect a change of beneficiary. The terms and conditions so established may provide for proving death, avoiding or resolving a problem concerning fractional shares, designating primary and contingent beneficiaries, and substituting a named beneficiary's descendants to take in the place of the named beneficiary in the event of the beneficiary's death.

(2) Substitution may be indicated by appending to the name of the primary beneficiary the letters LDPS, standing for "lineal descendants per stirpes". This designation substitutes a deceased beneficiary's descendants who survive the owner for a beneficiary who fails to survive, the descendants to be identified and to share in accordance with the law of the beneficiary's domicile at the owner's death governing inheritance by an intestate's descendants. Other forms of identifying beneficiaries who are to take on 1 or more contingencies, and rules for providing proofs and assurances needed to satisfy reasonable concerns by registering entities regarding conditions and identities relevant to accurate implementation or registrations in beneficiary form, may be contained in a registering entity's terms and conditions.

(3) The following are illustrations of registrations in beneficiary form that a registering entity may authorize:

(a) Sole owner-sole beneficiary:

"John S. Brown TOD or POD John S. Brown Jr."

(b) Multiple owners-sole beneficiary:

"John S. Brown and Mary B. Brown JT TEN TOD John S. Brown Jr."

(c) Multiple owners-primary and secondary substituted beneficiaries:

"John S. Brown and Mary B. Brown JT TEN TOD John S. Brown Jr. SUB BENE Peter Q. Brown" or "John S. Brown, Mary B. Brown JT TEN TOD John S. Brown Jr. LDPS."

ARTICLE VII  
TRUST ADMINISTRATION

PART 1

TRUST REGISTRATION

Sec. 7101. (1) The trustee of a trust having its principal place of administration in this state may register the trust in the court at the place designated in the trust instrument or, if none is designated, then at the principal place of administration. The principal place of the trust's administration is the trustee's usual place of business where the records pertaining to the trust are kept or the trustee's residence if the trustee does not have such a place of business. For a corporate trustee, the usual place of business is the business location of the primary trust officer for the trust.

(2) For cotrustees, if not designated in the trust instrument, the principal place of administration is 1 of the following:

(a) If there is only 1 corporate cotrustee, the corporate trustee's usual place of business.

(b) If there is only 1 professional fiduciary who is an individual and no corporate trustee, the professional fiduciary's usual place of business or residence.

(c) If (a) or (b) does not apply, the usual place of business or residence of any of the cotrustees as agreed upon by them.

Sec. 7102. (1) A trust is registered by the filing of a statement that states the trustee's name and address and in which the trustee acknowledges the trusteeship. The statement must indicate if the trust has been registered elsewhere. The statement must identify the trust in 1 of the following manners:

(a) For a testamentary trust, by the name of the testator and the date and place of domiciliary probate.

(b) For a written inter vivos trust, by the name of each settlor and the original trustee and the date of the trust instrument and all amendments existing on the date of registration.

(c) For an oral trust, by information identifying the settlor or other source of money and describing the trust's time and manner of creation and the trust's terms, including the subject matter, beneficiaries, and time of performance.

(2) The trust instrument and amendments are not required to be filed with the court as part of the trust registration. If a trust is registered elsewhere, registration in this state is ineffective until the earlier registration is released by order of the court where that registration occurred or by an instrument executed by the trustee and all beneficiaries. The order or instrument shall be filed with the registration in this state.

Sec. 7103. (1) By registering a trust or accepting the trusteeship of a registered trust, the trustee submits personally to the court's jurisdiction in a proceeding under section 7201 relating to the trust that is initiated by an interested person while the trust remains registered. Notice of a proceeding must be given to the trustee in accordance with section 1401 at the trustee's address as stated in the registration or as reported to the court and to the trustee's address then known to the petitioner.

(2) To the extent of all beneficial interests in the trust and if notice is given in accordance with section 1401, each beneficiary of a trust properly registered in this state is subject to the jurisdiction of the court of registration for the purposes of a proceeding under section 7201.

Sec. 7104. For purposes of a proceeding commenced by a trust beneficiary before registration, a trustee of a trust that is not registered in a proper place is subject to the personal jurisdiction of a court in which the trust could have been registered. In addition, a trustee who, within 28 days after receipt of a written demand by a trust settlor or beneficiary, fails to register a trust as required by the trust instrument is subject to removal and denial of compensation or to surcharge as the court may direct.

Sec. 7105. A foreign corporate trustee is required to qualify as a foreign corporation doing business in this state if it maintains a trust's principal place of administration within the state. A foreign cotrustee is not required to qualify in this state solely because its cotrustee maintains the principal place of administration in this state. Unless otherwise doing business in this state, local qualification by a foreign trustee, corporate or individual, is not required for the trustee to receive distribution from a local estate, to hold, invest in, manage, or acquire property located in this state, or to maintain litigation. This section does not affect a determination of what other acts require qualification as doing business in this state.

## PART 2

### COURT JURISDICTION CONCERNING TRUSTS

Sec. 7201. (1) The court has exclusive jurisdiction of proceedings concerning trusts as provided in section 1302(b) and (d) and concurrent jurisdiction regarding matters affecting trusts as provided in section 1303.

(2) Neither registration of a trust nor another proceeding concerning a trust results in continuing supervisory proceedings. Subject to court jurisdiction as invoked by an interested person or as otherwise exercised as provided by law, the management and distribution of a trust estate, submission of an account or report to beneficiaries, payment of a trustee's fees and other trust obligations, acceptance and change of trusteeship, and any other aspect of trust administration shall proceed expeditiously consistent with the terms of the trust, free of judicial intervention, and without court order or approval, or other court action.

Sec. 7202. Venue for a proceeding under section 7201 involving a registered trust is in the place of registration. Venue for a proceeding under section 7201 involving a trust not registered in this state is in any place where the trust properly could have been registered and as otherwise specified by the rules of civil procedure.

Sec. 7203. (1) If a party objects, the court shall not entertain a proceeding under section 7201 involving a trust registered or having its principal place of administration in another state, unless either of the following applies:

(a) All appropriate parties could not be bound by litigation in the courts of the state where the trust is registered or has its principal place of administration.

(b) If the interests of justice would otherwise seriously be impaired.

(2) The court may condition a stay or dismissal of a proceeding under this section on the consent of a party to jurisdiction of the state in which the trust is registered or has its principal place of business, or the court may grant a continuance or enter another appropriate order.

Sec. 7204. The court where a trust is registered has concurrent jurisdiction with other courts of this state of an action or proceeding to determine the existence or nonexistence of the trust if created other than by will, of an action or proceeding against a creditor or debtor of the trust, and of another action or proceeding involving a trustee and a third party. Venue is determined by the rules generally applicable to civil actions.

Sec. 7205. On petition of an interested person, after notice to all interested persons, the court may review the propriety of employment of a person by a trustee including an attorney, auditor, investment advisor, or other specialized agent or assistant, and the reasonableness of the compensation of a person so employed and the reasonableness of the compensation determined by the trustee for the trustee's own services. The court may order a person who receives excessive compensation from a trust to make an appropriate refund.

Sec. 7206. A proceeding under section 7201 is initiated by filing a petition in the court and giving notice to interested persons as provided in section 1401. The court may order notification of additional persons. A judgment or order is valid for each person who is given notice of the proceeding even if not all interested persons are notified.

Sec. 7207. (1) On petition of an interested person, the court may approve an interpretation, construction, modification, or other settlement that is agreed upon in writing by all presently identified and competent beneficiaries whose interests in the trust may be affected to resolve a contest, controversy, or question of construction or interpretation concerning the existence, administration, or termination of an irrevocable trust.

(2) If the present or future interest of an unborn, unascertained, missing, or disappeared person; of a trustee or a trust beneficiary described in the trust document but not yet established; or of a minor or other person without legal capacity is not represented or is not represented adequately under the provisions of section 1209 or section 1403, the court may appoint 1 or more guardians ad litem to represent the interest or interests.

(3) The court shall approve an agreement described in subsection (1) if it appears to have been reached in good faith and its effects are just and reasonable under all of the relevant facts and circumstances.

(4) The order in response to a petition under subsection (1) is binding on each party who is represented in the proceeding and on others in accordance with section 1403(b). After issuance of the order, the agreement as approved by the court shall be considered a part of the governing instrument of the trust.

PART 3  
DUTIES AND LIABILITIES OF TRUSTEES

Sec. 7301. Except as specifically provided, the general duty of a trustee to administer a trust expeditiously for the benefit of the beneficiaries is not altered by this act.

Sec. 7302. Except as otherwise provided by the terms of the trust, the trustee shall act as would a prudent person in dealing with the property of another, including following the standards of the Michigan prudent investor rule. If the trustee has special skills or is named trustee on the basis of representation of special skills or expertise, the trustee is under a duty to use those skills.

Sec. 7303. (1) Subject to subsection (2), the trustee of a revocable trust shall keep the settlor reasonably informed of the trust and its administration. Unless otherwise provided in the trust instrument, the trustee of a revocable trust does not have a duty to inform a trust beneficiary of the trust and its administration, other than the settlor or, if the settlor is an incapacitated person, the settlor's designated agent.

(2) Unless otherwise provided in the trust instrument, if the trustee reasonably believes the settlor of a revocable trust is an incapacitated person and has no designated agent, the trustee shall keep each beneficiary, who, if the settlor were then deceased, would be a current trust beneficiary, reasonably informed of the trust and its administration. Notwithstanding the provisions of the trust instrument, upon good cause shown, the court may order the trustee to keep other beneficiaries reasonably informed of the trust and its administration.

(3) For a revocable trust, within 28 days after acceptance of trust or the death of the settlor, whichever is later, and for all other trusts, within 28 days after acceptance of the trust, the trustee shall inform in writing each beneficiary of the trust's existence, of the court in which the trust is registered, if it is registered, of the trustee's name and address, and of the beneficiary's right to request and receive both a copy of the trust's terms that describe or affect the beneficiary's interest and relevant information about the trust property. In addition, all of the following apply:

(a) Upon reasonable request, the trustee shall provide a beneficiary with a copy of the trust's terms that describe or affect the beneficiary's interest and with relevant information about the trust property.

(b) Unless the settlor directs or requests in the trust instrument that the trustee provide accounts to less than all interested trust beneficiaries, all of the following apply:

(i) At least annually and on termination of the trust or a change of the trustee, the trustee shall provide a statement of account to each current trust beneficiary and shall keep each current trust beneficiary informed of the trust and its administration.

(ii) Upon reasonable request, the trustee shall provide a statement of account to each interested trust beneficiary who is not also a current trust beneficiary and shall keep each of those persons reasonably informed of the trust and its administration.

(iii) The trustee shall provide a statement of account and other information to a beneficiary as the court directs.

(iv) In the trustee's discretion, the trustee may provide a statement of account and other information to any beneficiary.

(c) If the settlor requests or directs the trustee in the trust instrument to provide accounts and information to less than all interested trust beneficiaries, the trustee shall provide statements of account and information as provided in the trust instrument. At the court's direction, the trustee shall provide statements of account and other information to persons excluded by the settlor's request or direction to the extent and in the manner the court directs.

Sec. 7304. A trustee need not provide bond to secure performance of the trustee's duties unless required by the terms of the trust, reasonably requested by a beneficiary, or found by the court to be necessary to protect the interests of the beneficiaries who are not able to protect themselves and whose interests are not otherwise adequately represented. On petition of the trustee or an interested person, the court may excuse a requirement of bond, reduce the amount of the bond, release the surety, or permit the substitution of another bond with the same or different sureties. If bond is required, the bond shall be filed in the court of registration or another appropriate court in an amount and with the sureties and liabilities as provided in sections 3604 and 3606 relating to the bond of a personal representative.

Sec. 7305. A trustee is under a continuing duty to administer the trust at a place appropriate to the purposes of the trust and to its sound, efficient management. If the principal place of administration becomes inappropriate for any reason, the court may enter an order furthering efficient administration and the interests of beneficiaries, including, if appropriate, release of registration, removal of the trustee, and appointment of a trustee in another state. A trust provision relating to the place of administration, to changes in the place of administration, or to change of trustee controls unless compliance would be contrary to efficient administration or the purposes of the trust. The view of an adult beneficiary shall be given weight in determining the suitability of the trustee and the place of administration.

Sec. 7306. (1) Unless otherwise provided in the contract, a trustee is not personally liable on a contract properly entered into in the trustee's fiduciary capacity in the course of administration of the trust estate unless the trustee fails to reveal the trustee's representative capacity and identify the trust estate in the contract.

(2) A trustee is personally liable for an obligation arising from ownership or control of the trust estate property or for a tort committed in the course of administration of the trust estate only if the trustee is personally at fault.

(3) A claim based on a contract entered into by a trustee in trustee's fiduciary capacity, on an obligation arising from ownership or control of the trust estate, or on a tort committed in the course of trust administration may be asserted against the trust estate by proceeding against the trustee in the trustee's fiduciary capacity, whether or not the trustee is personally liable for the claim.

(4) The question of liability as between the trust estate and the trustee individually may be determined in a proceeding for accounting, surcharge, or indemnification or in another appropriate proceeding.

Sec. 7307. (1) Unless previously barred by adjudication, consent, or limitation, a claim against a trustee for breach of trust is barred unless a proceeding to assert the claim is commenced within 1 year after receipt of an annual or final account as to each beneficiary who receives the annual or final account. Those barred include all of the following:

(a) A beneficiary when an interested trust beneficiary possessing the same interest preceding that of the beneficiary receives an annual or final account.

(b) An object, taker in default, or another who may receive property by virtue of the exercise of or failure to exercise a presently exercisable or testamentary general or special power of appointment if the person possessing the power of appointment receives the annual or final account.

(c) A person described in section 1403(b) as bound by another if that other receives the annual or final account.

(2) A beneficiary or another person is considered to receive an annual or final account if the account is provided to the person in 1 of the manners specified for a notice by section 1401.

(3) For purposes of subsections (1) and (2), an accounting shall be considered an annual or final account if the account does all of the following:

(a) Is stated in a manner and with terminology that is reasonably understandable.

(b) Begins with a concise summary of its purpose and content.

(c) Contains sufficient information to put interested persons on notice as to all significant transactions affecting administration during the accounting period.

(d) Includes both the carrying values, representing the value of property at tax cost, and current values at the beginning and end of the accounting period.

(e) Shows gains and losses incurred during the accounting period separately in the same schedule.

(f) Shows significant transactions that do not affect the amount for which the trustee is accountable.

Sec. 7308. (1) A person who succeeds to the position of trustee of a revocable trust upon the death, resignation, or incapacity of a trustee who was also the trust settlor is not liable for an act or omission of the settlor while serving as trustee.

(2) The successor trustee has no responsibility to investigate a transaction of the settlor/trustee, to review an account, act, or omission of the settlor/trustee, or to take action against the settlor/trustee for a breach of trust.

(3) A successor trustee does not have a greater responsibility to locate property in the trust, or passing to the trust, than it would have if the successor trustee were acting as personal representative of the estate of the settlor/trustee. The successor trustee may act upon information that the successor trustee believes true or a document that the successor trustee believes genuine.

#### PART 4

#### POWERS OF TRUSTEES

Sec. 7401. (1) A trustee has the power to perform in a reasonable and prudent manner every act that a reasonable and prudent person would perform incident to the collection, preservation, management, use, and distribution of the trust property to accomplish the desired result of administering the trust legally and in the trust beneficiaries' best interest.

(2) Subject to the standards described in subsection (1) and except as otherwise provided in the trust instrument, a trustee possesses all of the following specific powers:

(a) To take possession, custody, or control of property transferred to the trust.

(b) To retain property that the trustee receives, including property in which the trustee is personally interested, in accordance with the Michigan prudent investor rule.

(c) To receive property from a fiduciary or another source that is acceptable to the trustee.

(d) To perform, compromise, or refuse to perform a contract of the settlor that is an obligation of the trust, as the trustee may determine under the circumstances. In performing an enforceable contract by the settlor to convey or lease land, if the contract for a conveyance requires the giving of a warranty, the deed or other instrument of conveyance to be given by the trustee must contain the warranty required. The warranty is binding on the trust as though made by the settlor, but does not bind the trustee except in the trustee's fiduciary capacity. The trustee, among other possible courses of action, may do either of the following:

(i) Execute and deliver a deed of conveyance for cash payment of money remaining due or the purchaser's note for the money remaining due secured by a mortgage on the land.

(ii) Deliver a deed in escrow with directions that the proceeds, when paid in accordance with the escrow agreement, be paid to the trustee, as designated in the escrow agreement.

(e) To satisfy a settlor's written charitable pledge irrespective of whether the pledge constitutes a binding obligation of the settlor or was properly presented as a claim, if in the trustee's judgment the settlor would have wanted the pledge completed under the circumstances.

(f) To deposit trust money in a bank, including a bank operated by the trustee and to invest and reinvest trust property as would a prudent investor acting in accordance with the Michigan prudent investor rule.

(g) To acquire property, including property in this or another state or country, in any manner for cash or on credit, at public or private sale; and to manage, develop, improve, exchange, partition, or change the character of trust property.

(h) To make an ordinary or extraordinary repair or alteration in a building or another structure, to demolish an improvement, or to raze an existing or erect a new party wall or building.

(i) To subdivide, develop, or dedicate land to public use; to make or obtain the vacation of a plat or adjust a boundary; to adjust a difference in valuation on exchange or partition by giving or receiving consideration; or to dedicate an easement to public use without consideration.

(j) To enter for any purpose into a lease as lessor or lessee, with or without an option to purchase or renew, for any term.

(k) To enter into a lease or arrangement for exploration and removal of minerals or another natural resource or to enter into a pooling or unitization agreement.

(l) To abandon property if, in the trustee's opinion, the property is valueless, or is so encumbered or in such a condition that it is of no benefit to the trust.

(m) To vote a stock or other security in person, by general or limited proxy, or in another manner provided by law.

(n) To pay a call, assessment, and another amount chargeable or accruing against or on account of a security.

(o) To hold property in the name of a nominee or in another form without disclosure of the interest of the trust. However, the trustee is liable for an act of the nominee in connection with the property so held.

(p) To insure the trust property against damage, loss, or liability and to insure the trustee against liability as to a third person.

(q) To borrow money for any purpose from the trustee or others and to mortgage or pledge trust property.

(r) To effect a fair and reasonable compromise with a debtor or obligor, or extend, renew, or in any manner modify the terms of an obligation owing to the trust. If the trustee holds a mortgage, pledge, or another lien on property of another person, the trustee may, instead of foreclosure, accept a conveyance or transfer of encumbered property from the property's owner in satisfaction of the indebtedness secured by a lien.

(s) To pay a tax, an assessment, the trustee's compensation, or another expense incident to the administration of the trust.

(t) To sell or exercise a subscription or conversion right or to consent, directly or through a committee or another agent, to the reorganization, consolidation, merger, dissolution, or liquidation of a business enterprise.

(u) To allocate an item of income or expense to either trust income or principal, as permitted or provided by law.

(v) To employ, and pay reasonable compensation for services performed by, a person, including an auditor, investment advisor, accountant, appraiser, broker, custodian, rental agent, realtor, or agent, even if the person is associated with the trustee, for the purpose of advising or assisting the trustee in the performance of an administrative duty; to act without independent investigation upon such a person's recommendation; and, instead of acting personally, to employ 1 or more agents to perform an act of administration, whether or not discretionary.

(w) To employ an attorney to perform necessary legal services or to advise or assist the trustee in the performance of the trustee's administrative duties. An attorney employed under this subdivision shall receive reasonable compensation for that employment.

(x) To prosecute, defend, arbitrate, settle, release, compromise, or agree to indemnify a claim or proceeding in any jurisdiction or under an alternative dispute resolution procedure. The trustee may act under this subsection for the trustee's protection in the performance of the trustee's duties.

(y) To sell, exchange, partition, or otherwise dispose of, or grant an option with respect to, trust property for any purpose upon any terms or conditions.

(z) To continue or participate in a business or venture in any manner, in any form, and for any length of time.

(aa) To change the form, in any manner, of a business or venture in which the settlor was engaged at the time of death.

(bb) To provide for exoneration of the trustee from personal liability in a contract entered into on behalf of the trust.

(cc) To respond to environmental concerns and hazards affecting trust property as provided in section 7407.

(dd) To collect, pay, contest, settle, release, agree to indemnify against, compromise, or abandon a claim of or against the trust, including a claim against the trust by the trustee.

(ee) To respond to a tax matter as provided in section 7408.

(ff) To divide trust property into 2 or more separate portions or trusts with substantially identical terms and conditions and to allocate property between them, in order to simplify administration for generation skipping transfer tax purposes, to segregate property for management purposes, or to meet another trust objective.

(gg) To make a payment of money, or other property instead of money, to or for a minor or incapacitated individual as provided in section 7409.

(hh) To make a distribution or division of trust property in cash or in kind, or both; to allot a different kind or disproportionate portion of, or an undivided interest in, trust property among beneficiaries and determine the value of allotted trust property; or to distribute an unclaimed share as described in section 3916.

(ii) To transfer the property of a trust to another jurisdiction and appoint, compensate, or remove a successor trustee, individual or corporate, for trust property in another jurisdiction, with any trust powers set out in this part that the trustee delegates to the successor trustee.

(jj) To execute and deliver an instrument that accomplishes or facilitates the exercise of a power vested in the trustee.

(3) A trust that contains substantially identical provisions as another trust established for the same beneficiary or beneficiaries may be consolidated and administered as 1 trust. If the rule against perpetuities speaks from different dates with reference to the trusts or if there are other variations in terms, consolidation may still take place, but the property of the trusts shall be maintained in separate accounts if necessary to recognize and give effect to the differences.

Sec. 7402. For cause shown and on the petition of the trustee or an affected beneficiary and on appropriate notice to the affected parties, the court may relieve a trustee from a restriction on the trustee's powers that would otherwise be placed on the trustee by the trust instrument or by this part.

Sec. 7403. (1) If the trustee's duty and the trustee's individual interest or the trustee's interest as a trustee of another trust conflict in the exercise of a trust power, the power may be exercised if any of the following are true:

(a) The trust agreement expressly authorizes the transaction.

(b) The transaction is approved by the court after notice to interested persons.

(c) The transaction is otherwise permitted by statute.

(2) Under this section, personal profit or advantage to an affiliated or subsidiary company or association is personal profit to a corporate trustee.

Sec. 7404. With respect to a third person dealing with a trustee or assisting a trustee in the conduct of a transaction, the existence of a trust power and its proper exercise by the trustee may be assumed without inquiry. The third person is not bound to inquire whether the trustee may act or is properly exercising the power. A third person, without actual knowledge that the trustee is exceeding a trust power or improperly exercising it, is fully protected in dealing with the trustee as if the trustee possessed and properly exercised the power the trustee purports to exercise. A third person is not bound to assure the proper application of trust property paid or delivered to the trustee.

Sec. 7405. Unless otherwise provided in the trust instrument, if 1 of several trustees dies, resigns, or is removed, the remaining trustees have all rights, title, and powers of all previous trustees. If the trust instrument provides that

a successor trustee be appointed to fill a vacancy, the remaining trustees may exercise the powers of all previous trustees until the successor is appointed.

Sec. 7406. (1) If there are more than 2 trustees and the trust instrument expressly makes provision for the execution of any of the trustees' powers by all of them or by any 1 or more of them, the provisions of the trust instrument govern.

(2) If there is no governing provision in the trust instrument, cotrustees may provide, by written agreement signed by all of them and filed with and approved by the court where the trust would be registered, as determined in accordance with section 7101, that any 1 or more of the powers designated in section 7401 may be exercised by any designated 1 or more of the trustees.

(3) Subject to subsection (1), if 2 or more trustees own securities, their acts with respect to voting have 1 of the following effects:

(a) If only 1 trustee votes, in person or by proxy, that trustee's act binds all of the trustees.

(b) If more than 1 trustee votes, in person or by proxy, the act of the majority so voting binds all of the trustees.

(c) If more than 1 trustee votes, in person or by proxy, but the vote is evenly split on a particular matter, each faction is entitled to vote the securities proportionately.

(4) Subject to subsections (1) to (3), all other acts and duties shall be performed by both of the trustees if there are 2 or by a majority of the trustees if there are more than 2. A trustee who has not joined in exercising a power is not liable to a beneficiary or another person for the consequences of the exercise of that power. A dissenting trustee is not liable for the consequences of an act in which the dissenting trustee joins at the direction of the other trustees, if the dissenting trustee expressed dissent in writing to a cotrustee at or before the time of joinder.

(5) A trustee is not relieved of liability by entering into an agreement under this section.

Sec. 7407. (1) In connection with an environmental concern or hazard, a trustee may do any of the following:

(a) Inspect property or the operation of a business activity on property, including property held in or operated by a sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, or limited liability company or any other type of entity, for the purpose of determining compliance with environmental law affecting the property and to respond to an actual or threatened violation of an environmental law affecting property held or tendered to the trustee.

(b) Take action necessary to prevent, abate, or otherwise remedy an actual or threatened violation of an environmental law affecting property held by the trustee, either before or after a governmental body initiates an enforcement action.

(c) Refuse to accept property in trust if the trustee determines that the property to be transferred to the trust either is or may be contaminated by a hazardous substance or has been or is being used for an activity directly or indirectly involving a hazardous substance that could result in liability to the trust or otherwise impair the value of the trust property.

(d) Settle or compromise at any time a claim against the trust that a governmental body or private party may assert involving the alleged violation of an environmental law affecting property held in the trust.

(e) Disclaim a power granted by a document, statute, or rule of law that, in the sole discretion of the trustee, may cause the trustee to incur personal liability under an environmental law.

(f) Decline to serve or resign as a trustee if the trustee reasonably believes that there is or may be a conflict of interest between it in its fiduciary capacity and in its individual capacity because of a potential claim or liability that may be asserted against the trustee on the trust's behalf because of the type or condition of property held in trust.

(g) Appoint an independent special trustee to hold title to, and take a reasonably required action, as provided in this section, relating to environmental law in regard to, property tendered to the trust, until the time that the trustee determines no substantial risk exists if the tendered property becomes part of the trust property or abandons the tendered property.

(h) Charge the cost of an inspection, review, abatement, response, cleanup, settlement of claim, or remedial action authorized by this section against the trust property.

(2) A trustee is not personally liable to a beneficiary or other party for a decrease in value of trust property by reason of the trustee's compliance with an environmental law, specifically including a reporting requirement under that law. The trustee's acceptance of property or failure to inspect property or a business operation does not create an inference that there is or may be liability under an environmental law with respect to the property or business operation. The authority granted by this section is solely to facilitate the administration and protection of trust property and is not to impose greater responsibility or liability on the trustee than imposed by law absent this section.

Sec. 7408. (1) A trustee may do any of the following in connection with a tax matter:



(a) Make, revise, or revoke an available allocation, consent, or election affecting a tax that is appropriate in order to carry out the settlor's estate planning objectives and to reduce the overall burden of taxation, both in the present and in the future. This authority includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:

(i) Electing to take expenses as estate tax or income tax deductions.

(ii) Electing to allocate the exemption from the tax on generation skipping transfers among transfers subject to estate or gift tax.

(iii) Electing to have all or a portion of a transfer for a spouse's benefit qualify for the marital deduction.

(iv) Electing the date of death or an alternate valuation date for federal estate tax purposes.

(b) Exclude or include property from the gross estate for federal estate tax purposes.

(c) Value property for federal estate tax purposes.

(d) Join with the surviving spouse or the surviving spouse's personal representative in the execution and filing of joint income tax return and consenting to a gift tax return filed by the surviving spouse or the surviving spouse's personal representative.

(2) A trustee's decision on a matter described in subsection (1)(a) binds all beneficiaries.

(3) After making a decision described in subsection (1)(a), a trustee may make compensating adjustments between principal and income.

Sec. 7409. (1) A trustee may act under section 7401(1)(gg) by paying money or other property to 1 or more of the following:

(a) The minor or incapacitated individual directly.

(b) A person or institution providing support, maintenance, education, or medical, surgical, hospital, or other institutional care for the minor or incapacitated individual in direct payment for those services.

(c) The legal or natural guardian of the minor or incapacitated individual.

(d) A person, whether or not appointed guardian by a court, who shall in fact have the care and custody of the minor or incapacitated individual.

(e) A custodian for the minor or incapacitated individual under a uniform gifts or transfers to minors act.

(2) If the trustee exercises due care in the selection of the person to whom a payment is made under this section, including a minor or incapacitated individual, the trustee does not have a duty to see to the payment's application. The person's receipt for the payment completely discharges the trustee.

## PART 5

### CLAIMS AGAINST A DECEDENT'S REVOCABLE TRUST

Sec. 7501. (1) The property of a trust over which the settlor has the right, at his or her death, either alone or in conjunction with another person, to revoke the trust and reinvest principal in himself or herself is subject to all of the following, but only to the extent that the settlor's property subject to probate administration is insufficient to satisfy the following expenses, claims, and allowances:

(a) The administration expenses of the settlor's estate.

(b) An enforceable and timely presented claim of a creditor of the settlor, including a claim for the settlor's funeral and burial expenses.

(c) Homestead, family, and exempt property allowances.

(2) A trust established as part of, and all payments from, an employee annuity described in section 403 of the internal revenue code, an individual retirement account described in section 408 of the internal revenue code, a Keogh (HR-10 plan), or a retirement or other plan that is qualified under section 401 of the internal revenue code shall not be considered to be a trust described in subsection (1).

(3) This section does not impair a right that an individual has under a qualified domestic relations order as that term is defined in section 414(p) of the internal revenue code.

(4) For purposes of this section, property held or received by a trust to the extent that the property would not have been subject to a claim against the settlor's estate if it had been paid directly to a trust created under the settlor's will or other than to the settlor's estate, or property received from a trust other than a trust described in this section, shall not be considered trust property available for the payment of the administration expenses, a claim against the settlor's estate, or an allowance described in subsection (1).

Sec. 7502. (1) A trustee of a trust described in section 7501(1) shall pay to the personal representative of the settlor's estate the amount from time to time that the personal representative certifies in writing to the trustee is required to

pay the administration expenses of the settlor's estate; an enforceable and timely presented claim of a creditor of the settlor, including a claim for the settlor's funeral and burial expenses; and homestead, family, and exempt property allowances. Without liability to a trust beneficiary or another party, the trustee may rely on the certificate of the personal representative. In the event there is no personal representative appointed for the settlor's estate, the trustee shall pay directly to the creditor an enforceable and timely served claim of a creditor of the settlor, including a claim for the settlor's funeral and burial expenses. When there is no personal representative appointed for the settlor's estate, a trust described in section 7501(1) is not liable for payment of homestead, family, or exempt property allowance. A payment made by a trustee is subject to this section, but the payment shall be made exclusively out of property, or the proceeds of property, that is includable in the settlor's gross estate for federal estate tax purposes, other than assets proscribed in section 7501(2), (3), and (4).

(2) Unless a settlor provides in his or her will or, in the absence of such a provision, designates in the trust the money or property passing under a trust to be used as described in section 7501, the administration expenses of the settlor's estate; an enforceable and timely filed claim of a creditor of the settlor, including a claim for the settlor's funeral and burial expenses; or homestead, family, and exempt property allowances, to be paid in accordance with subsection (1), shall be paid from the property of the trust in the following order:

(a) Property of the trust residue remaining after all distributions that are to be satisfied by reference to a specific property or type of property, fund, money, or statutory amount.

(b) Property that is not to be distributed out of specified or identified property or a specified or identified item of property.

(c) Property that is to be distributed out of specified or identified property or a specified or identified item of property.

Sec. 7503. (1) The following rules apply to section 7502(2):

(a) Upon the failure or insufficiency of money or property out of which payment should be made, to the extent of the insufficiency, a distribution of property from the trust that is to be satisfied out of specified or identified property shall be classed as a distribution to be satisfied out of the general trust property not otherwise disposed of in the trust instrument.

(b) A distribution of property from the trust given for valuable consideration shall abate with other distributions of the same class only to the extent of the excess over the amount of the value of the consideration until all others of the same class are exhausted.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in this section, distributions of property from the trust shall abate equally and ratably and without preference or priority as between real and personal property.

(d) If a specified or identified item of property that has been designated for distribution in the trust instrument or that is charged with a distribution is sold or taken by the trustee, other beneficiaries shall contribute according to their respective interests to the beneficiary whose property is sold or taken, and before distribution, the trustee shall determine the amounts of the respective contributions, which shall be paid or withheld before distribution is made.

(2) Costs and expenses of trust administration, including trustee compensation and attorney fees, shall be paid by the trustee before and in preference to the administration expenses of the settlor's estate, an enforceable and timely filed claim of a creditor of the settlor, and homestead, family, and exempt property allowances. If, after paying costs and expenses of trust administration, the trust property is insufficient to pay in full all charges for which the trust is liable under section 7501(1), the trustee shall make payment in the following order of priority:

(a) Costs and expenses of administration of the decedent's estate.

(b) Homestead, family, and exempt property allowances.

(c) Reasonable funeral and burial expenses.

(d) Debts and taxes with priority under federal law.

(e) Reasonable and necessary medical and hospital expenses of the decedent's last illness, including compensation of a person attending the decedent.

(f) Debts and taxes with priority under other laws of this state.

(g) All other claims.

(3) A preference shall not be given in the payment of a charge over another charge of the same class under subsection (2), and a charge due and payable is not entitled to a preference over a charge not due.

(4) If the decedent was the settlor of more than 1 trust described in section 7501(1), the charges described in that section are payable pro rata from those trusts, based on the gross values of the respective trusts on the date of the decedent's death. Each trustee is entitled to right of contribution as necessary to effect the pro rata liability. The allocation and contribution, however, are subject to provisions in the trusts regarding the allocation and burden of the

charges. If there is conflict between the governing instruments regarding the allocation and burden of the charges, the decedent's will controls.

Sec. 7504. If there is no personal representative of the settlor's estate to whom letters of administration have been issued so that the publication and notice requirements of section 3801 have not been discharged, then each trustee of a trust described in section 7501(1) must cause a notice to creditors to be published and served in the same manner, with the same duties, and with the same protection for the trustee and the attorney for the trustee as described in section 3801 for a personal representative. The notice must comply with an applicable court rule and contain the name of the trust's deceased settlor; the trust's name or other designation, if any; the date the trust was established; the name and address of each trustee serving at the time of or as a result of the settlor's death; and the name and address of the trustee's attorney, if any. The notice must state the date of publication.

Sec. 7505. (1) If notice to claimants is given by a trustee as provided in section 7504, a claimant shall present a claim against a trust described in section 7501(1) in either of the following ways:

(a) The claimant may mail or deliver to the trustee a written statement of the claim indicating its basis, the name and address of the claimant, and the amount claimed. The claim is considered presented on the trustee's receipt of the claim. If a claim is not yet due, the date when it will become due must be stated. If the claim is contingent or unliquidated, the nature of the uncertainty must be stated. If the claim is secured, the security must be described. Failure to describe correctly the security, the nature of any uncertainty, and the due date of a claim not yet due does not invalidate a claim's presentation.

(b) The claimant may commence a proceeding to obtain payment of a claim against the trust in a court where the trustee is subject to jurisdiction. The commencement of the proceeding must occur within the time limit for presenting the claim. Presentation of a claim is not required in regard to matters claimed in proceedings against the trust or settlor that were pending at the time of the settlor's death.

(2) If a personal representative is appointed for the settlor's estate, presentation of a claim against the settlor's estate must be made in the manner described in section 3804, and such a presentation is sufficient to assert liability against a trust described in section 7501(1) without an additional presentation of the claim against the trustee.

Sec. 7506. (1) If not barred earlier by another statute of limitations, a claim against the settlor of a trust described in section 7501(1) that arose at or before the settlor's death that a person seeks to recover from the trust is barred against the trust, each trustee of the trust, and a trust beneficiary, unless presented within 1 of the following times:

(a) If notice is given in compliance either with section 3801 or section 7504, within 4 months after the date of publication of notice to creditors.

(b) For a creditor known to the personal representative at the time of publication or during the 4 months following publication, or known to the trustee at or during such a time if publication occurred under section 7504, within 28 days after the subsequent sending of notice or 4 months after the date of publication of notice to creditors, whichever is later.

(c) If the notice requirements of either section 3801 or section 7504 are not met, within 3 years after the settlor's death.

(2) This section does not affect or prevent any of the following:

(a) A proceeding to enforce a mortgage, pledge, or other lien upon property held in the trust.

(b) A proceeding to establish the settlor's or the trustee's liability for which the settlor or the trustee is protected by liability insurance to the limits of the insurance protection only.

(c) Collection of compensation for services rendered and reimbursement of expenses advanced by the trustee or by an attorney, auditor, investment adviser, or other specialized agent or assistant for the trustee.

Sec. 7507. If there is no personal representative appointed for the settlor's estate and notice is given in accordance with section 7504, the allowance or disallowance of a claim presented in the manner described in section 7505(1) and within a time period described in section 7506 is governed by the following provisions:

(a) The trustee may deliver or mail a notice to the claimant stating that the claim has been disallowed in whole or in part. If, after allowing or disallowing a claim, the trustee changes a decision concerning the claim, the trustee shall notify the claimant. The trustee may not change a decision disallowing a claim if the time for the claimant to file a petition for allowance has passed or if the time to commence a proceeding on the claim has run and the claim has been barred. A claim that is disallowed in whole or in part by the trustee is barred to the extent not allowed unless the claimant files a petition for allowance in the court or commences a proceeding against the trustee not later than 63 days after the mailing of the notice of disallowance or partial allowance if the notice warns the claimant of the impending bar. Failure by the trustee to deliver or mail to a claimant notice of action on the claim within 63 days after the time for the claim's presentation has expired constitutes a notice of allowance.

(b) After allowing or disallowing a claim, the trustee may change the allowance or disallowance as provided in this subdivision. Before payment, the trustee may change the allowance to a disallowance in whole or in part, but not after allowance by a court order or judgment, or an order directing payment of the claim. The trustee shall notify the claimant of the change to disallowance, and the disallowed claim is then subject to bar as provided in subdivision (a). The trustee may change a disallowance to an allowance, in whole or in part, until it is barred under subdivision (a). After a claim is barred, it may be allowed and paid only if the trust is solvent and all whose interests would be affected consent.

(c) Upon the trustee's or a claimant's petition, the court may allow in whole or in part a claim properly presented in due time and not barred by subdivision (a).

(d) A judgment in a proceeding in another court against a trustee to enforce a claim against a decedent's estate constitutes an allowance of the claim.

(e) Unless otherwise provided in a judgment in another court entered against the trustee, an allowed claim bears interest at a rate determined under section 6013 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.6013, for the period commencing 63 days after the time for original presentation of the claim has expired, unless based on a contract that provides for interest, in which case the claim bears interest in accordance with the contract.

Sec. 7508. (1) Upon the expiration of 4 months after the date of the publication of the notice to creditors, the trustee shall proceed to pay the claims allowed against the trust in the order of priority prescribed in section 7503(2)(c) to (e), after making provision for costs and expenses of trust administration, for each claim already presented that is not yet allowed or whose allowance is appealed, and for each unbarred claim that may yet be presented. A claimant whose claim is allowed, but not paid as provided in this section, may petition the court to secure an order directing the trustee to pay the claim to the extent that money of the trust is available for the payment.

(2) At any time, the trustee may pay a claim that is not barred, with or without formal presentation, but is individually liable to another claimant whose claim is allowed and who is injured by the payment if either of the following occurs:

(a) Payment is made before the expiration of the time limit stated in subsection (1) and the trustee fails to require the payee to give adequate security for the refund of any of the payment necessary to pay another claimant.

(b) Payment is made, due to the negligence or willful fault of the trustee, in a manner that deprives the injured claimant of priority.

(3) If a claim is allowed, but the whereabouts of the claimant is unknown at the time the trustee attempts to pay the claim, upon petition by the trustee and after notice the court considers advisable, the court may disallow the claim. If the court disallows a claim under this subsection, the claim is barred.

Sec. 7509. Payment of a secured claim shall be upon the basis of the amount allowed if the creditor surrenders the security. Otherwise payment shall be upon the basis of 1 of the following:

(a) If the creditor exhausts the security before receiving payment, upon the claim amount allowed less the fair value of the security.

(b) If the creditor does not have the right to exhaust the security or does not do so, upon the claim amount allowed less the value of the security as determined by converting it into money according to the terms of the agreement under which the security is delivered to the creditor, or as determined by the creditor and trustee by agreement, arbitration, compromise, or litigation.

Sec. 7510. A claim that will become due at a future time, a contingent claim, or an unliquidated claim is governed by the following:

(a) If a claim becomes due or certain before the distribution of the trust, and if the claim is allowed or established by a proceeding, the claim shall be paid in the same manner as presently due and absolute claims of the same class.

(b) For a claim not covered by subdivision (a), the trustee or, on petition of the trustee or the claimant in a proceeding for the purpose, the court may provide for payment as follows:

(i) If the claimant consents, the claimant may be paid the present or agreed value of the claim, taking any uncertainty into account.

(ii) Arrangement for future payment, or possible payment, on the happening of the contingency or on liquidation may be made by creating a trust, giving a mortgage, obtaining a bond or security from a distributee, or otherwise.

Sec. 7511. In allowing a claim, the trustee may deduct a counterclaim that the trustee has against the claimant. In determining a claim against a trust, the court shall reduce the amount allowed by the amount of a counterclaim and, if the total counterclaims exceed the claim, render a judgment against the claimant in the amount of the excess. A counterclaim, liquidated or unliquidated, may arise from a transaction other than that upon which the claim is based. A counterclaim may give rise to relief exceeding in amount or different in kind from that sought in the claim.

ARTICLE VIII  
EFFECTIVE DATE AND REPEALER

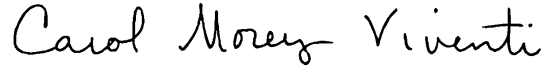
Sec. 8101. (1) This act takes effect April 1, 2000.

(2) Except as provided elsewhere in this act, on this act's effective date, all of the following apply:

- (a) The act applies to a governing instrument executed by a decedent dying after that date.
- (b) The act applies to a proceeding in court pending on that date or commenced after that date regardless of the time of the decedent's death except to the extent that in the opinion of the court the former procedure should be made applicable in a particular case in the interest of justice or because of the infeasibility of applying this act's procedure.
- (c) A fiduciary, including a person administering the estate of a minor or incompetent, holding an appointment on that date continues to hold the appointment, but has only the powers conferred by this act and is subject to the duties imposed with respect to an event occurring or action taken after that date.
- (d) This act does not impair an accrued right or an action taken before that date in a proceeding. If a right is acquired, extinguished, or barred upon the expiration of a prescribed period of time that commences to run by the provision of a statute before this act's effective date, the provision remains in force with respect to that right.
- (e) A rule of construction or presumption provided in this act applies to a governing instrument executed before that date unless there is a clear indication of a contrary intent.

Sec. 8102. The following acts and parts of acts are repealed:

- (a) Disclaimer of property interests act, 1996 PA 131, MCL 554.871 to 554.890.
- (b) Uniform testamentary additions to trusts act, 1962 PA 83, MCL 555.461 to 555.464.
- (c) Revised probate code, 1978 PA 642, MCL 700.1 to 700.993.
- (d) Uniform simultaneous death act, 1941 PA 73, MCL 720.101 to 720.108.
- (e) 1996 PA 433, MCL 451.471 to 451.481.



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Secretary of the Senate.



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Clerk of the House of Representatives.

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

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Governor.