02/07/20 **REVISOR** JFK/EH 20-6627 as introduced

SENATE STATE OF MINNESOTA **NINETY-FIRST SESSION**

S.F. No. 3258

(SENATE AUTHORS: INGEBRIGTSEN, Limmer, Relph, Dziedzic and Pappas) OFFICIAL STATUS

DATE 02/17/2020 **D-PG** 4787

Introduction and first reading Referred to Judiciary and Public Safety Finance and Policy Authors added Dziedzic; Pappas

02/27/2020 5047 03/09/2020 Comm report: To pass as amended

Second reading

A bill for an act 1.1

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relating to civil law; modifying and modernizing certain provisions governing 1 2 guardianship and conservatorship; amending Minnesota Statutes 2018, sections 1.3 484.76, subdivision 2; 524.5-102, subdivisions 6, 7, 13a, by adding subdivisions; 1.4 524.5-104; 524.5-110; 524.5-113; 524.5-120; 524.5-205; 524.5-211; 524.5-303; 1.5 524.5-304; 524.5-307; 524.5-310; 524.5-311; 524.5-313; 524.5-316; 524.5-317; 1.6 524.5-403; 524.5-406; 524.5-408; 524.5-409; 524.5-411; 524.5-412; 524.5-414; 1.7 524.5-415; 524.5-416; 524.5-417; 524.5-420; 524.5-423; 524.5-431; 609.748, 1.8 subdivision 2; 611A.01; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, 1.9 chapter 524. 1.10

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.12 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 484.76, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **Scope.** Alternative dispute resolution methods provided for under the rules must include arbitration, private trials, neutral expert fact-finding, mediation, minitrials, consensual special magistrates including retired judges and qualified attorneys to serve as special magistrates for binding proceedings with a right of appeal, and any other methods developed by the supreme court. The methods provided must be nonbinding unless otherwise agreed to in a valid agreement between the parties. Alternative dispute resolution may not be required in guardianship, conservatorship, or civil commitment matters; or in matters arising under section 144.651, 144.652, 518B.01, or 626.557.

- Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 524.5-102, is amended by adding a subdivision 1.21 to read: 1.22
- Subd. 1a. ABLE account. "ABLE account" means an Achieving a Better Life Experience 1.23 Act of 2014 account under section 529A of the Internal Revenue Code. 1.24

Sec. 2 1

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 524.5-102, subdivision 6, is amended to read: 2.1 Subd. 6. Incapacitated person. "Incapacitated person" means an individual who, for 2.2 reasons other than being a minor, is impaired to the extent of lacking sufficient understanding 2.3 or capacity to make or communicate responsible personal decisions, and who has 2.4 2.5 demonstrated deficits in behavior which evidence an inability is unable to meet personal needs for medical care, nutrition, clothing, shelter, or safety, even with appropriate 2.6 technological and supported decision making assistance. 2.7 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 524.5-102, subdivision 7, is amended to read: 2.8 Subd. 7. **Interested person.** "Interested person" includes: 2.9 (i) the adult subject to guardianship or conservatorship, ward, protected person, or 2.10 respondent; 2.11 (ii) a nominated guardian or conservator, or the duly appointed guardian or conservator; 2.12 (iii) legal representative; 2.13 (iv) the spouse, parent, adult children including adult step-children, and siblings, or if 2.14 none of such persons is living or can be located, the next of kin of the ward, protected person 2.15 subject to guardianship, person subject to conservatorship, or respondent; 2.16 2.17 (v) an adult person who has lived with a ward, protected person subject to guardianship, person subject to conservatorship, or respondent for a period of more than six months; 2.18 (vi) an attorney for the ward person subject to guardianship or protected person subject 2.19 to conservatorship; 2.20 (vii) a governmental agency paying or to which an application has been made for benefits 2.21 for the respondent, ward, or protected person subject to guardianship, or person subject to 2.22 conservatorship, including the county social services agency for the person's county of 2.23 residence and the county where the proceeding is venued; 2.24 (viii) a representative of a state ombudsman's office or a federal protection and advocacy 2.25 program that has notified the court that it has a matter regarding the ward, protected person 2.26 subject to guardianship, person subject to conservatorship, or respondent; 2.27 2.28 (ix) a health care agent or proxy appointed pursuant to a health care directive as defined in section 145C.01, a living will under chapter 145B, or other similar document executed

Sec. 4. 2

in another state and enforceable under the laws of this state; and

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Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 524.5-102, is amended by adding a subdivision

Subd. 13b. Person subject to guardianship. "Person subject to guardianship" means

Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 524.5-102, is amended by adding a subdivision

Subd. 13c. Professional guardian or professional conservator. "Professional guardian"

or "professional conservator" means a person acting as guardian or conservator for three or

Sec. 8. 3

an individual for whom a guardian has been appointed.

more individuals not related by blood, adoption, or marriage.

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to read:

to read:

Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 524.5-102, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

- Subd. 16a. Supported decision making. "Supported decision making" means assistance from one or more persons of an individual's choosing in understanding the nature and consequences of potential personal and financial decisions which enables the individual to make the decisions and, when consistent with the individual's wishes, in communicating a decision once made.
- Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 524.5-104, is amended to read:

524.5-104 FACILITY OF TRANSFER.

- (a) A person required to who may transfer money or personal property to a minor may do so, as to an amount or value not exceeding \$5,000 per year the amount allowable as a tax exclusion gift under section 2503(b) of the Internal Revenue Code or a different amount that is approved by the court, by transferring it to:
 - (1) a person who has the care and custody of the minor and with whom the minor resides;
- 4.15 (2) a guardian of the minor;

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- 4.16 (3) a custodian under the Uniform Transfers To Minors Act or custodial trustee under
 4.17 the Uniform Custodial Trust Act; or
- 4.18 (4) a financial institution as a deposit in an interest-bearing account or certificate in the sole name of the minor and giving notice of the deposit to the minor-; or
- 4.20 (5) an ABLE account. A guardian only has the authority to establish an ABLE account.
 4.21 The guardian may not administer the ABLE account in the guardian's capacity as guardian.
 - (b) This section does not apply if the person making payment or delivery knows that a conservator has been appointed or that a proceeding for appointment of a conservator of the minor is pending.
 - (c) A person who transfers money or property in compliance with this section is not responsible for its proper application.
 - (d) A guardian or other person who receives money or property for a minor under paragraph (a), clause (1) or (2), may only apply it to the support, care, education, health, and welfare of the minor, and may not derive a personal financial benefit except for reimbursement for necessary expenses. Any excess must be preserved for the future support, care, education, health, and welfare of the minor and any balance must be transferred to the minor upon emancipation or attaining majority.

Sec. 10. 4

Sec. 11. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 524.5-110, is amended to read:

524.5-110 LETTERS OF OFFICE.

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The court shall issue appropriate letters of guardianship upon the guardian's filing of an acceptance of office. The court shall issue appropriate letters of conservatorship upon the conservator's filing of an acceptance of office and any required bond. Letters of guardianship must indicate whether the guardian was appointed by the court, a parent, or the spouse. Any limitation on <u>duration or on</u> the powers of a guardian or conservator or of the assets subject to a conservatorship must be endorsed on the guardian's or conservator's letters.

Sec. 12. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 524.5-113, is amended to read:

524.5-113 NOTICE.

- (a) Except for notice for which specific requirements are otherwise provided in this article or as otherwise ordered by the court for good cause, notice of a hearing on a petition is required for all petitions in the manner prescribed by this section. The petitioner shall give notice of the time and place of the hearing to all interested persons. Subject to paragraph (f), notice must be given by mail postmarked at least 14 days before the hearing.
 - (b) Proof of notice must be made before or at the hearing and filed in the proceeding.
 - (c) A notice under this article must be given in plain language.
- (d) If a patient of a state hospital, regional center, or any state-operated service has a guardianship or conservatorship established, modified, or terminated, the head of the state hospital, regional center, or state-operated service shall be notified. The notice shall require the institution to advise the court of the existence, if known, of a health care directive as defined in section 145C.01, executed by the proposed ward person subject to guardianship, incapacitated person, or protected person subject to conservatorship, a living will executed under chapter 145B, or any other similar document executed in another state and enforceable under the laws of this state. If a ward person subject to guardianship, incapacitated person, or protected person subject to conservatorship is under the guardianship or conservatorship of the commissioner of human services as developmentally disabled or dependent and neglected or is under the temporary custody of the commissioner of human services, the court shall notify the commissioner of human services if the public guardianship or conservatorship is established, modified, or terminated.
- (e) If a conservator is required to file a bond pursuant to section 524.5-415, notice of any proceeding seeking a surcharge of any interested party must be sent or delivered to the

Sec. 12. 5

surety at the address shown in the court records at the place where the bond is filed and to any other address then known to the petitioner.

- (f) Except where personal service is required by statute for the petition to appoint a guardian under section 524.5-308 or conservator under section 524.5-404, service of all documents and notices under this chapter may, and where required by supreme court rule or order shall, be made by electronic means other than facsimile transmission if authorized by rule or order of the supreme court and if service is made in accordance with the rule or order.
- (g) An interested person may notify the court in writing that the interested person does not wish to receive copies of notices required under any provision of this article after which time neither the court nor any other person is required to give notice to any person who has waived notice.
- Sec. 13. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 524.5-120, is amended to read:

524.5-120 BILL OF RIGHTS FOR WARDS AND PROTECTED PERSONS SUBJECT TO GUARDIANSHIP OR CONSERVATORSHIP.

The ward or protected person subject to guardianship or person subject to conservatorship retains all rights not restricted by court order and these rights must be enforced by the court. These rights include the right to:

(1) treatment with dignity and respect;

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- (2) due consideration of current and previously stated personal desires, and preferences, including but not limited to medical treatment preferences, cultural practices, religious beliefs, and other preferences and opinions in decisions made by the guardian or conservator;
- (3) <u>participate in decision making about and receive timely and appropriate health care</u> and medical treatment that does not violate known <u>preferences or conscientious</u>, religious, or moral beliefs of the <u>ward or protected</u> person <u>subject to guardianship or person subject to conservatorship</u>;
- (4) exercise control of all aspects of life not unless delegated specifically to the guardian or conservator by court order to the guardian or conservator;
- (5) guardianship or conservatorship services individually suited to the ward's or protected person's conditions and needs of the person subject to guardianship or the person subject to conservatorship;
- (6) petition the court to prevent or initiate a change in abode;

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20-6627 (7) care, comfort, social and recreational needs, employment and employment supports, training, education, habilitation, and rehabilitation care and services, within available resources; (8) be consulted concerning, and to decide to the extent possible, the reasonable care and disposition of the ward's or protected person's clothing, furniture, vehicles, and other personal property and effects of the person subject to guardianship or person subject to conservatorship, to object to the disposition of personal property and effects, and to petition

the court for a review of the guardian's or conservator's proposed disposition;

(9) personal privacy;

- (10) communication and visitation with persons of the ward's or protected person's choice, provided that if the guardian has found that certain communication or visitation may result in harm to the ward's or protected person's health, safety, or well-being, that communication or visitation may be restricted but only to the extent necessary to prevent the harm communicate, visit, or interact with others, including receiving visitors or making or receiving telephone calls, personal mail, or electronic communications including through social media, or participating in social activities, unless the guardian has good cause to believe restriction is necessary because interaction with the person poses a risk of significant physical, psychological, or financial harm to the person subject to guardianship, and there is no other means to avoid the significant harm. In all cases, the guardian shall provide written notice of the restrictions imposed to the court, to the person subject to guardianship, and to the person subject to restrictions. The person subject to guardianship or the person subject to restrictions may petition the court to remove or modify the restrictions;
- (11) marry and procreate, unless court approval is required, and to consent; 7.23
- (12) elect or object to sterilization as provided in section 524.5-313, paragraph (c), clause 7.24 (4), item (iv); 7.25
- (12) (13) at any time, petition the court for termination or modification of the guardianship 7.26 or conservatorship, and any decisions made by the guardian or conservator in relation to 7.27 powers granted, or for other appropriate relief; 7.28
- (13) (14) be represented by an attorney in any proceeding or for the purpose of petitioning 7.29 the court; 7.30
- (14) (15) vote, unless restricted by the court; and 7.31
- (16) be consulted concerning, and make decisions to the extent possible, about personal 7.32 image and name, unless restricted by the court; and 7.33

Sec. 13. 7 (15) (17) execute a health care directive, including both health care instructions and the appointment of a health care agent, if the court has not granted a guardian any of the powers or duties under section 524.5-313, paragraph (c), clause (1), (2), or (4).

Sec. 14. [524.5-121] BILL OF PARTICULARS.

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- (a) When a bill of particulars is required to be filed under this chapter, it shall be filed pursuant to a form approved by the court. In the absence of a court form, a bill of particulars shall specify the confidential or nonpublic information within the text of the form or as an appendix to the form, including a reference to where the information is located in the pleadings, captioned consistent with the current proceedings, and identification of the bill of particulars as a confidential document. A bill of particulars must be filed consistent with all applicable court rules for submitting confidential or nonpublic documents, including Rule 11 of the Minnesota Rules of General Practice and the Rules of Public Access to Records of the Judicial Branch.
- 8.14 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of this article or of any other law to the contrary, a

 8.15 bill of particulars filed pursuant to this chapter shall be served upon:
- 8.16 (1) the respondent or the respondent's attorneys;
 - (2) the person subject to guardianship or their attorneys;
 - (3) the person subject to conservatorship or their attorneys; and
- (4) interested persons or their attorneys who file objections in a guardianship or
 conservatorship or protective proceeding or object to a particular account, report or pleading
 filed with a bill of particulars.
 - (c) Notwithstanding any provision of this article or of any other law to the contrary, a bill of particulars filed pursuant to this chapter shall be served upon or otherwise provided to:
 - (1) any person upon consent of: the respondent or the respondent's attorneys, the person subject to guardianship or the person's attorneys, the person subject to conservatorship or the person's attorneys, the respondent's guardian or conservator, or the guardian or conservator's attorneys; and
 - (2) other persons by order of the court for good cause shown.
- 8.30 (d) Any person served or provided with a bill of particulars may only disclose the
 8.31 information within it to those authorized to receive the information as provided for in this
 8.32 section. This limitation of disclosure shall be stated in the bill of particulars.

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Sec. 15. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 524.5-205, is amended to read:

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524.5-205 JUDICIAL APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN: PROCEDURE.

- (a) A person interested in the welfare of a minor may petition for appointment of a guardian.
- (b) After a petition is filed, the court shall set a date for hearing, and the petitioner shall give notice of the time and place for hearing the petition, together with a copy of the petition, to:
 - (1) the minor, if the minor has attained 14 years of age and is not the petitioner;
- (2) any person alleged to have had the primary care and custody of the minor during the 60 days before the filing of the petition; 9.10
 - (3) each living parent of the minor or, if there is none, the adult nearest in kinship that can be found;
 - (4) any person nominated as guardian by the minor if the minor has attained 14 years of age;
 - (5) any appointee of a parent whose appointment has not been prevented or terminated under section 524.5-203; and
 - (6) any guardian or conservator currently acting for the minor in this state or elsewhere.
 - (c) Any documents or information disclosing or pertaining to health or financial information shall be filed as confidential documents, consistent with the bill of particulars under section 524.5-121.
 - (e) (d) The court, upon hearing, shall make the appointment if it finds that a qualified person seeks appointment, venue is proper, the required notices have been given, the conditions of section 524.5-204, paragraph (a), have been met, and the best interest of the minor will be served by the appointment. In other cases, the court may dismiss the proceeding or make any other disposition of the matter that will serve the best interest of the minor.
 - (d) (e) If the court determines at any stage of the proceeding, before or after appointment, that the interests of the minor are or may be inadequately represented, it may appoint a lawyer to represent the minor, giving consideration to the choice of the minor if the minor has attained 14 years of age, provided that such appointment shall expire upon the expiration of the appeal time for the order appointing guardian or the order dismissing a petition or upon such other time or event as the court may direct.

Sec. 15. 9 (e) (f) Within 14 days after an appointment, a guardian shall send or deliver to the minor ward person subject to guardianship, and counsel if represented at the hearing, a copy of the order of appointment accompanied by a notice which advises the minor ward person subject to guardianship of the right to appeal the guardianship appointment in the time and manner provided by the Rules of Appellate Procedure.

Sec. 16. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 524.5-211, is amended to read:

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524.5-211 DELEGATION OF POWER BY PARENT OR GUARDIAN.

- (a) A parent, legal custodian, or <u>nonprofessional</u> guardian of a minor or incapacitated person, by a properly executed power of attorney, may delegate to another person, for a period not exceeding one year, any powers regarding care, custody, or property of the minor or ward person subject to guardianship, except the power to consent to marriage or adoption of a minor ward person subject to guardianship.
- (b) A professional guardian of a minor or incapacitated person, by a properly executed power of attorney, may delegate to another person, for a period not exceeding 30 days, any powers regarding care, custody, or property of the minor or person subject to guardianship, except the power to consent to marriage or adoption of a minor person subject to guardianship. A professional guardian delegating parental rights under this paragraph must submit the power of attorney to the court.
- (b) (c) A parent who executes a delegation of powers under this section must mail or give a copy of the document to any other parent within 30 days of its execution unless:
 - (1) the other parent does not have parenting time or has supervised parenting time; or
- (2) there is an existing order for protection under chapter 518B or a similar law of another state in effect against the other parent to protect the parent, legal custodian, or guardian executing the delegation of powers or the child.
- 10.25 (e) (d) A parent, legal custodian, or guardian of a minor child may also delegate those powers by designating a standby or temporary custodian under chapter 257B.
 - Sec. 17. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 524.5-303, is amended to read:

524.5-303 JUDICIAL APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN: PETITION.

(a) An individual or a person interested in the individual's welfare may petition for a determination of incapacity, in whole or in part, and for the appointment of a guardian, limited or unlimited guardian in duration or power, for the individual.

Sec. 17. 10

(b) The petition must set forth the petitioner's name, residence, current address if different, relationship to the respondent, and interest in the appointment and, to the extent known, state or contain the following with respect to the respondent and the relief requested:

- (1) the respondent's name, age, principal residence, current street address, and, if different, the address of the dwelling in which it is proposed that the respondent will reside if the appointment is made;
 - (2) the name and address of the respondent's:

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- (i) spouse, or if the respondent has none, an adult with whom the respondent has resided for more than six months before the filing of the petition; and
- (ii) adult children <u>including adult step-children</u> or, if the respondent has none, the respondent's parents and adult brothers and sisters, or if the respondent has none, at least one of the adults nearest in kinship to the respondent who can be found;
- (3) the name of the administrative head and address of the institution where the respondent is a patient, resident, or client of any hospital, nursing home, home care agency, or other institution;
 - (4) the name and address or post office box of any legal representative for the respondent;
- (5) the name, address or post office box, and telephone number of any person nominated as guardian by the respondent in any manner permitted by law, including a health care agent nominated in a health care directive:
- 11.20 (6) the name, address, and telephone number of any proposed guardian and the reason why the proposed guardian should be selected;
 - (7) the name and address of any health care agent or proxy appointed pursuant to a health care directive as defined in section 145C.01, a living will under chapter 145B, or other similar document executed in another state and enforceable under the laws of this state;
 - (8) the reason why guardianship is necessary, including a brief description of the nature and extent of the respondent's alleged incapacity;
 - (9) what less restrictive means have been attempted and considered, how long such less restrictive means have been attempted, and a description of why such less restrictive means are not sufficient to meet the respondent's identified needs;
 - (9) (10) if an unlimited guardianship is requested, the reason why limited guardianship is inappropriate and, if a limited guardianship is requested, the powers to be granted to the limited guardian; and

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anticipated rates.

(10) (11) a general statement of the respondent's property with an estimate of its value, including any insurance or pension, and the source and amount of any other anticipated income or receipts.
(c) The petition must also set forth the following information regarding the proposed guardian or any employee of the guardian responsible for exercising powers and duties under the guardianship:
(1) whether the proposed guardian has ever been removed for cause from serving as a guardian or conservator and, if so, the case number and court location;
(2) if the proposed guardian is a professional guardian or conservator, a summary of the proposed guardian's educational background and relevant work and other experience;
(3) whether the proposed guardian has ever applied for or held, at any time, any professional license from an agency listed under section 524.5-118, subdivision 2a, and if so, the name of the licensing agency, and as applicable, the license number and status; whether the license is active or has been denied, conditioned, suspended, revoked, or canceled; and the basis for the denial, condition, suspension, revocation, or cancellation of the license;
(4) whether the proposed guardian has ever been found civilly liable in an action that involved fraud, misrepresentation, material omission, misappropriation, theft, or conversion, and if so, the case number and court location;
(5) whether the proposed guardian has ever filed for or received protection under the bankruptcy laws in the last five years, and if so, the case number and court location;
(6) whether the proposed guardian has any outstanding civil monetary judgments against the proposed guardian, and if so, the case number, court location, and outstanding amount owed;
(7) whether an order for protection or harassment restraining order has ever been issued against the proposed guardian, and if so, the case number and court location; and
(8) whether the proposed guardian has ever been convicted of a erime other than a petty misdemeanor or traffic offense gross misdemeanor or felony, and if so, the case number and the crime of which the guardian was convicted—; and
(9) if the proposed guardian is a professional, the proposed guardian's current customary

rates, and if the proposed guardian is not a professional, the proposed guardian's current

Sec. 17. 12

(d) Any documents or information disclosing or pertaining to paragraph (b), clauses (7) to (11), or health or financial information shall be filed as confidential documents, consistent with the bill of particulars under section 524.5-121.

Sec. 18. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 524.5-304, is amended to read:

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524.5-304 JUDICIAL APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN: PRELIMINARIES TO HEARING.

- (a) Upon receipt of a petition to establish a guardianship, the court shall set a date and time for hearing the petition and may appoint a visitor. The duties and reporting requirements of the visitor are limited to the relief requested in the petition.
- (b) A proposed ward person subject to guardianship has the right to be represented by counsel at any proceeding under this article. The court shall appoint counsel to represent the proposed ward person subject to guardianship for the initial proceeding held pursuant to section 524.5-307 if neither the proposed ward person subject to guardianship nor others provide counsel unless in a meeting with a visitor the proposed ward person subject to guardianship makes an informed decision in writing to specifically waive the right to counsel. Before appointment, and at any time during the course of the representation when a risk of a conflict of interest may arise, the proposed or appointed counsel shall disclose to the court, the proposed ward person subject to guardianship or ward person subject to guardianship, and interested persons whether there are concurrent proceedings in which the counsel is the attorney for the proposed guardian or guardian and whether there is a risk of a conflict of interest under Rule 1.7 of the Rules of Professional Conduct so that the representation of the proposed ward person subject to guardianship or ward person subject to guardianship will be materially limited by counsel's concurrent responsibilities to the proposed guardian or guardian. If there is a risk of a conflict of interest, the counsel must not be appointed or new counsel must be appointed, unless:
- (1) the court determines that the proposed ward person subject to guardianship or ward person subject to guardianship is able to give informed consent to the representation and, if the proposed ward person subject to guardianship or ward person subject to guardianship consents, the consent is confirmed in writing pursuant to Rule 1.7; or
- 13.30 (2) the court determines that there is not a risk of a conflict of interest under Rule 1.7

 13.31 requiring the appointment of different counsel.

Sec. 18.

(c) Counsel must be appointed immediately after any petition under this article is served under section 524.5-308. Counsel has the full right of subpoena. In all proceedings under this article, counsel shall:

- (1) consult with the proposed ward person subject to guardianship before any hearing;
- (2) be given adequate time to prepare for all hearings; and

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(3) continue to represent the person throughout any proceedings under section 524.5-307, provided that such appointment shall expire upon the expiration of the appeal time for the order appointing guardian or the order dismissing a petition, or upon such other time or event as the court may direct.

The court need not appoint counsel to represent the proposed ward person subject to guardianship on a voluntary petition, and the court may remove a court-appointed attorney at any time if the court finds that the proposed ward person subject to guardianship has made a knowing and intelligent waiver of the right to counsel or has obtained private counsel.

- (d) The visitor shall personally serve the notice and petition upon the respondent and shall offer to read the notice and petition to the respondent, and if so requested the visitor shall read the notice and petition to such person. The visitor shall also interview the respondent in person, and to the extent that the respondent is able to understand:
- (1) explain to the respondent the substance of the petition; the nature, purpose, and effect of the proceeding; the respondent's rights at the hearing; and the general powers and duties of a guardian;
- (2) determine the respondent's views about the proposed guardian, the proposed guardian's powers and duties, and the scope and duration of the proposed guardianship;
- (3) inform the respondent of the right to employ and consult with a lawyer at the respondent's own expense and the right to request a court-appointed lawyer; and
- (4) inform the respondent that all costs and expenses of the proceeding, including respondent's attorneys fees, will be paid from the respondent's estate.
- (e) In addition to the duties in paragraph (d), the visitor shall make any other investigation the court directs.
- (f) The visitor shall promptly file, as a confidential document consistent with the bill of particulars under section 524.5-121, a report in writing with the court, which must include:

Sec. 18. 14

(1) recommendations regarding the appropriateness of guardianship, including whether less restrictive means of intervention are available, the type of guardianship, and, if a limited guardianship, the powers to be granted to the limited guardian;

- (2) a statement as to whether the respondent approves or disapproves of the proposed guardian, and the powers and duties proposed or the scope of the guardianship; and
 - (3) any other matters the court directs.

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- (g) The county social service agency may create a screening committee to review a petition involving an indigent person. The screening committee must consist of individuals selected by the agency with knowledge of alternatives that are less restrictive than guardianship. If the agency has created a screening committee, the court shall make its decision after the screening committee has reviewed the petition. For an indigent person, the court may appoint a guardian under contract with the county to provide these services.
- Sec. 19. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 524.5-307, is amended to read:

524.5-307 JUDICIAL APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN PROCEEDINGS; PRESENCE AND RIGHTS AT HEARING.

- (a) Unless excused by the court for good cause, the petitioner and the proposed guardian shall attend the hearing. The respondent shall attend and participate in the hearing, unless excused by the court for good cause. The petitioner and respondent may present evidence and subpoena witnesses and documents; examine witnesses, including the visitor; and otherwise participate in the hearing. The hearing may be held in a location convenient to the respondent and may be closed upon the request of the respondent and a showing of good cause.
- (b) Any person may request permission to participate in the proceeding. The court may grant the request, with or without hearing, upon a showing of good cause and after determining that the best interest of the respondent will be served. The court may attach appropriate conditions to the participation.
- (c) A respondent to any guardianship petition and any person subject to guardianship in any other guardianship proceeding has not placed his or her health, physical, or mental condition in controversy. Any denials, allegations or affirmative assertions by the respondent or person subject to guardianship regarding capacity do not place these matters in controversy.

Sec. 19. 15

Sec. 20. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 524.5-310, is amended to read:

524.5-310 FINDINGS; ORDER OF APPOINTMENT.

- (a) The court may appoint a <u>guardian</u>, limited or unlimited <u>guardian</u> in duration or power, for a respondent only if it finds by clear and convincing evidence that:
 - (1) the respondent is an incapacitated person; and

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- (2) the respondent's identified needs cannot be met by less restrictive means, including but not limited to use of appropriate technological assistance, supported decision making, community or residential services, or appointment of a health care agent under section 145C.01, subdivision 2. The court must make specific findings particular to the respondent why less restrictive alternatives do not work.
- (b) Alternatively, the court, with appropriate findings, may treat the petition as one for a protective order under section 524.5-401, enter any other appropriate order, or dismiss the proceeding.
 - (c) The court shall grant to a guardian only those powers necessitated by the ward's limitations and demonstrated needs of the person subject to guardianship and, whenever feasible, make appointive and other orders that will encourage the development of the ward's maximum self-reliance and independence of the person subject to guardianship. Any power not specifically granted to the guardian, following a written finding by the court of a demonstrated need for that power, is retained by the ward person subject to guardianship.
 - (d) The court may limit the duration of any guardianship. However, if the person subject to guardianship is under the age of 30 years old on the date the court files an order appointing a guardian, the guardianship must be of a limited duration determined by the court, not exceeding a period over 72 months.
 - (e) Notwithstanding paragraph (d), a petition for guardianship for an indefinite period of time may be filed for any person who is 29 years or older and is currently subject to a guardianship of limited duration.
 - (d) (f) If the court grants the guardian any of the powers or duties under section 524.5-313, paragraph (c), clause (1), (2), or (4), the authority of a previously appointed health care agent to make health care decisions, as defined in section 145C.01, subdivision 5, is suspended until further order of the court or as otherwise provided by this section. The court may declare a health care directive unenforceable as provided in section 145C.09, subdivision 3. The court may declare that a health care directive has been revoked by the ward person subject to guardianship if the court finds, by clear and convincing evidence, that the ward

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person subject to guardianship has revoked the health care directive as provided in section 145C.09, subdivision 1.

(e) (g) A health care agent or other person legally appointed by the ward person subject to guardianship to control final disposition of the ward's remains of the person subject to guardianship under section 145C.05, subdivision 2, clause (7), or 149A.80, or a health care agent authorized to make organ or tissue donations under section 525A.04 or 525A.09, may make health care decisions as defined in section 145C.01, subdivision 5, on behalf of the ward person subject to guardianship for the purpose of preparing the ward's body of the person subject to guardianship for organ or tissue donation or final disposition of the ward's remains of the person subject to guardianship, as applicable.

(f) (h) Within 14 days after an appointment, a guardian shall send or deliver to the ward person subject to guardianship, and counsel if represented at the hearing, a copy of the order of appointment accompanied by a notice which advises the ward person subject to guardianship of the right to appeal the guardianship appointment in the time and manner provided by the Rules of Appellate Procedure.

(g) (i) Each year, within 30 days after the anniversary date of an appointment, a guardian shall send or deliver to the ward person subject to guardianship and to interested persons of record with the court (1) a notice of the right to request termination or modification of the guardianship or to request an order that is in the best interests of the ward person subject to guardianship or for other appropriate relief, and (2) notice of the status of the ward's right to vote of the person subject to guardianship, and (3) a copy of the bill of rights for persons subject to guardianship as provided in section 524.5-120. An interested person may notify the court in writing that the interested person does not wish to receive copies of notices required under this section after which time neither the court nor any other person is required to give notice to any person who has waived notice.

Sec. 21. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 524.5-311, is amended to read:

524.5-311 EMERGENCY GUARDIAN.

(a) If the court finds that compliance with the procedures of this article will likely result in substantial harm to the respondent's health, safety, or welfare, and that no other person appears to have authority and willingness to act in the circumstances, the court, on petition by a person interested in the respondent's welfare, may appoint an emergency guardian whose authority may not exceed 60 days and who may exercise only the powers specified in the order. A county that is acting under section 626.557, subdivision 10, by petitioning for appointment of an emergency guardian on behalf of a vulnerable adult may be granted

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20-6627

authority to act for a period not to exceed 90 days. An emergency guardian's appointment under this section may only be extended once for a period not to exceed 60 days if the court finds good cause for the continuation of the guardianship. Immediately upon receipt of the petition for an emergency guardianship, the court shall appoint a lawyer to represent the respondent in the proceeding. Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (b), reasonable notice of the time and place of a hearing on the petition must be given to the respondent and any other persons as the court directs.

- (b) An emergency guardian may be appointed without notice to the respondent and the respondent's lawyer only if the court finds from affidavit or other sworn testimony that the respondent will be substantially harmed before a hearing on the appointment can be held. If the court appoints an emergency guardian without notice to the respondent, the respondent must be given notice of the appointment within 48 hours after the appointment. The court shall hold a hearing on the appropriateness of the appointment within five days after the appointment.
- (c) Appointment of an emergency guardian, with or without notice, is not a determination of the respondent's incapacity.
- (d) The court may remove an emergency guardian at any time. An emergency guardian shall make any report the court requires. In other respects, the provisions of this article concerning guardians apply to an emergency guardian.
- (e) Any documents or information disclosing or pertaining to health or financial 18.20 information shall be filed as confidential documents, consistent with the bill of particulars 18.21 under section 524.5-121. 18.22
- Sec. 22. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 524.5-313, is amended to read: 18.23

524.5-313 POWERS AND DUTIES OF GUARDIAN.

- (a) A guardian shall be subject to the control and direction of the court at all times and 18.25 in all things. 18.26
 - (b) The court shall grant to a guardian only those powers necessary to provide for the demonstrated needs of the ward person subject to guardianship.
 - (c) The court may appoint a guardian if it determines that all the powers and duties listed in this section are needed to provide for the needs of the incapacitated person. The court may also appoint a guardian if it determines that a guardian is needed to provide for the needs of the incapacitated person through the exercise of some, but not all, of the powers

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and duties listed in this section. The duties and powers of a guardian or those which the court may grant to a guardian include, but are not limited to:

- (1) the power to have custody of the ward person subject to guardianship and the power to establish a place of abode within or outside the state, except as otherwise provided in this clause. The ward person subject to guardianship or any interested person may petition the court to prevent or to initiate a change in abode. A ward person subject to guardianship may not be admitted to a regional treatment center by the guardian except:
 - (i) after a hearing under chapter 253B;

REVISOR

- (ii) for outpatient services; or
- (iii) for the purpose of receiving temporary care for a specific period of time not to exceed 90 days in any calendar year;
- (2) the duty to provide for the ward's care, comfort, and maintenance needs of the person subject to guardianship, including food, clothing, shelter, health care, social and recreational requirements, and, whenever appropriate, training, education, and habilitation or rehabilitation. The guardian has no duty to pay for these requirements out of personal funds. Whenever possible and appropriate, the guardian should meet these requirements through governmental benefits or services to which the ward person subject to guardianship is entitled, rather than from the ward's estate of the person subject to guardianship. Failure to satisfy the needs and requirements of this clause shall be grounds for removal of a private guardian, but the guardian shall have no personal or monetary liability;
- (3) the duty to take reasonable care of the ward's clothing, furniture, vehicles, and other personal effects of the person subject to guardianship, and, if other property requires protection, the power to seek appointment of a conservator of the estate. The guardian must give notice by mail to interested persons prior to the disposition of the ward's clothing, furniture, vehicles, or other personal effects of the person subject to guardianship. The notice must inform the person of the right to object to the disposition of the property within ten days of the date of mailing and to petition the court for a review of the guardian's proposed actions. Notice of the objection must be served by mail or personal service on the guardian and the ward person subject to guardianship unless the ward person subject to guardianship is the objector. The guardian served with notice of an objection to the disposition of the property may not dispose of the property unless the court approves the disposition after a hearing;
- (4)(i) the power to give any necessary consent to enable the ward person subject to guardianship to receive necessary medical or other professional care, counsel, treatment,

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or service, except that no guardian may give consent for psychosurgery, electroshock, sterilization, or experimental treatment of any kind unless the procedure is first approved by order of the court as provided in this clause. The guardian shall not consent to any medical care for the ward person subject to guardianship which violates the known conscientious, religious, or moral belief of the ward person subject to guardianship;

(ii) a guardian who believes a procedure described in item (i) requiring prior court approval to be necessary for the proper care of the ward person subject to guardianship, shall petition the court for an order and, in the case of a public guardianship under chapter 252A, obtain the written recommendation of the commissioner of human services. The court shall fix the time and place for the hearing and shall give notice to the ward person subject to guardianship in such manner as specified in section 524.5-308 and to interested persons. The court shall appoint an attorney to represent the ward person subject to guardianship who is not represented by counsel, provided that such appointment shall expire upon the expiration of the appeal time for the order issued by the court under this section or the order dismissing a petition, or upon such other time or event as the court may direct. In every case the court shall determine if the procedure is in the best interest of the ward person subject to guardianship. In making its determination, the court shall consider a written medical report which specifically considers the medical risks of the procedure, whether alternative, less restrictive methods of treatment could be used to protect the best interest of the ward person subject to guardianship, and any recommendation of the commissioner of human services for a public ward person subject to guardianship. The standard of proof is that of clear and convincing evidence;

(iii) in the case of a petition for sterilization of a developmentally disabled ward person with developmental disabilities subject to guardianship, the court shall appoint a licensed physician, a psychologist who is qualified in the diagnosis and treatment of developmental disability, and a social worker who is familiar with the ward's social history and adjustment of the person subject to guardianship or the case manager for the ward person subject to guardianship to examine or evaluate the ward person subject to guardianship and to provide written reports to the court. The reports shall indicate why sterilization is being proposed, whether sterilization is necessary and is the least intrusive method for alleviating the problem presented, and whether it is in the best interest of the ward person subject to guardianship. The medical report shall specifically consider the medical risks of sterilization, the consequences of not performing the sterilization, and whether alternative methods of contraception could be used to protect the best interest of the ward person subject to guardianship;

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(iv) any ward person subject to guardianship whose right to consent to a sterilization has not been restricted under this section or section 252A.101 may be sterilized only if the ward person subject to guardianship consents in writing or there is a sworn acknowledgment by an interested person of a nonwritten consent by the ward person subject to guardianship. The consent must certify that the ward person subject to guardianship has received a full explanation from a physician or registered nurse of the nature and irreversible consequences of the sterilization;

- (v) a guardian or the public guardian's designee who acts within the scope of authority conferred by letters of guardianship under section 252A.101, subdivision 7, and according to the standards established in this chapter or in chapter 252A shall not be civilly or criminally liable for the provision of any necessary medical care, including, but not limited to, the administration of psychotropic medication or the implementation of aversive and deprivation procedures to which the guardian or the public guardian's designee has consented;
- (5) in the event there is no duly appointed conservator of the <u>ward's</u> estate <u>of the person</u> <u>subject to guardianship</u>, the guardian shall have the power to approve or withhold approval of any contract, except for necessities, which the <u>ward person subject to guardianship</u> may make or wish to make;
- (6) the duty and power to exercise supervisory authority over the ward person subject to guardianship in a manner which limits civil rights and restricts personal freedom only to the extent necessary to provide needed care and services. A guardian may not restrict the ability of the person subject to guardianship to communicate, visit, or interact with others, including receiving visitors or making or receiving telephone calls, personal mail, or electronic communications including through social media, or participating in social activities, unless the guardian has good cause to believe restriction is necessary because interaction with the person poses a risk of significant physical, psychological, or financial harm to the person subject to guardianship, and there is no other means to avoid such significant harm. In all cases, the guardian shall provide written notice of the restrictions imposed to the court, to the person subject to guardianship, and to the person subject to restrictions. The person subject to guardianship or the person subject to restrictions may petition the court to remove or modify the restrictions;
- (7) if there is no acting conservator of the estate for the ward person subject to guardianship, the guardian has the power to apply on behalf of the ward person subject to guardianship for any assistance, services, or benefits available to the ward person subject to guardianship through any unit of government;

(8) unless otherwise ordered by the court, the ward person subject to guardianship retains 22.1 the right to vote.; 22.2 (9) the power to establish an ABLE account for a person subject to guardianship or 22.3 conservatorship. By this provision a guardian only has the authority to establish an ABLE 22.4 account, but may not administer the ABLE account solely in the guardian's capacity as 22.5 guardian; and 22.6 (10) if there is no conservator appointed for the person subject to guardianship, the 22.7 guardian has the duty and power to institute suit on behalf of the person subject to 22.8 guardianship and represent the person subject to guardianship in expungement proceedings, 22.9 22.10 harassment proceedings, and all civil court proceedings, including but not limited to restraining orders, orders for protection, name changes, conciliation court, housing court, 22.11 family court, probate court, and juvenile court, provided that a guardian may not settle or 22.12 compromise any claim or debt owed to the estate without court approval. 22.13 Sec. 23. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 524.5-316, is amended to read: 22.14 524.5-316 REPORTS; MONITORING OF GUARDIANSHIP; COURT ORDERS. 22.15 (a) A guardian shall report to the court in writing on the condition of the ward person 22.16 subject to guardianship at least annually and whenever ordered by the court. A copy of the 22.17 report must be provided to the ward person subject to guardianship and to interested persons 22.18 of record with the court. A report must state or contain: 22.19 (1) the current mental, physical, and social condition of the ward person subject to 22.20 guardianship; 22.21 (2) the living arrangements for all addresses of the ward person subject to guardianship 22.22 during the reporting period; 22.23 (3) any restrictions placed on the ward's right of the person subject to guardianship to 22.24 communication and visitation with persons of the ward's choice communicate, visit, or 22.25 interact with others, including receiving visitors or making or receiving telephone calls, 22.26 personal mail, or electronic communications including through social media, or participating 22.27 in social activities, and the factual bases for those restrictions; 22.28 (4) the medical, educational, vocational, and other services provided to the ward person 22.29 subject to guardianship and the guardian's opinion as to the adequacy of the ward's care of 22.30 the person subject to guardianship; 22.31

Sec. 23. 22

(5) a recommendation as to the need for continued guardianship and any recommended changes in the scope of the guardianship;

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- (6) an address <u>or post office box</u> and <u>a</u> telephone number where the guardian can be contacted; and
- (7) if applicable, the amount of reimbursement payment received as guardian for services rendered to the ward person subject to guardianship that the guardian received during the previous year that were not reimbursed paid by county contract, and the guardian's current rates.
- (b) A guardian shall report to the court in writing within 30 days of the occurrence of any of the events listed in this paragraph. The guardian must report any of the occurrences in this paragraph and follow the same reporting requirements in this paragraph for any employee of the guardian responsible for exercising powers and duties under the guardianship. A copy of the report must be provided to the ward person subject to guardianship and to interested persons of record with the court. A guardian shall report when:
- 23.16 (1) the guardian is removed for cause from serving as a guardian or conservator, and if 23.17 so, the case number and court location;
 - (2) the guardian has a professional license from an agency listed under section 524.5-118, subdivision 2a, denied, conditioned, suspended, revoked, or canceled, and if so, the licensing agency and license number, and the basis for denial, condition, suspension, revocation, or cancellation of the license;
 - (3) the guardian is found civilly liable in an action that involves fraud, misrepresentation, material omission, misappropriation, theft, or conversion, and if so, the case number and court location;
 - (4) the guardian files for or receives protection under the bankruptcy laws, and if so, the case number and court location;
- 23.27 (5) a civil monetary judgment is entered against the guardian, and if so, the case number, court location, and outstanding amount owed;
- 23.29 (6) the guardian is convicted of a crime other than a petty misdemeanor or traffic offense, 23.30 and if so, the case number and court location; or
- 23.31 (7) an order for protection or harassment restraining order is issued against the guardian, 23.32 and if so, the case number and court location.

Sec. 23. 23

24.1	(c) A ward person subject to guardianship or interested person of record with the court
24.2	may submit to the court a written statement disputing statements or conclusions regarding
24.3	the condition of the ward person subject to guardianship or addressing any disciplinary or
24.4	legal action that is contained in the guardian's reports and may petition the court for an order
24.5	that is in the best interests of the ward person subject to guardianship or for other appropriate
24.6	relief.
24.7	(d) A guardian shall communicate to all known interested persons as defined by section
24.8	524.5-102, subdivision 7, clauses (iii), (iv), (v), (vi), (ix), and (xi):
24.9	(1) within one day of awareness of:
24.10	(i) a significant or unexpected change in health or medical condition requiring physician
24.11	treatment or hospitalization of the person subject to guardianship;
24.12	(ii) a significant situation that requires action by ambulance, law enforcement, or fire
24.13	department for the person subject to guardianship; or
24.14	(iii) the death of the person subject to guardianship, provided that the court shall also
24.15	be notified of the death of the person subject to guardianship; and
24.16	(2) at least 14 days in advance of a permanent change in the primary dwelling of the
24.17	person subject to guardianship or a permanent move to a nursing home, mental health
24.18	facility, or other facility unless the move was by prior order of the court. Prior notice is not
24.19	necessary for any change of primary dwelling due to accident, injury, illness, or other
24.20	involuntary actions of the person subject to guardianship or guardian, but notice shall be
24.21	provided to interested persons defined by section 524.5-102, subdivision 7, clauses (iii),
24.22	(iv), (v), (vi), (ix), and (xi), within seven days of such a move caused by involuntary actions
24.23	of the person subject to guardianship or guardian.
24.24	(e) An interested person may notify the court in writing that the interested person does
24.25	not wish to receive copies of reports required under this section after which time neither
24.26	the court nor any other person is required to give notice to any person who has waived
24.27	notice.
24.28	(d) (f) An interested person may notify the court in writing that the interested person
24.29	does not wish to receive copies of reports required under this section.
24.30	(e) (g) The court may appoint a visitor to review a report, interview the ward person
24.31	subject to guardianship or guardian, and make any other investigation the court directs.

Sec. 23. 24 (f) (h) The court shall establish a system for monitoring guardianships, including the filing and review of annual reports. If an annual report is not filed within 60 days of the required date, the court shall issue an order to show cause.

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- (g) (i) If a guardian fails to comply with this section, the court may decline to appoint that person as a guardian or conservator, or may remove a person as guardian or conservator.
- (j) The guardian's annual report and any documents or information disclosing or pertaining
 to health or financial information shall be filed as confidential documents, consistent with
 the bill of particulars under section 524.5-121.
 - Sec. 24. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 524.5-317, is amended to read:

524.5-317 TERMINATION OR MODIFICATION OF GUARDIANSHIP; COURT ORDERS.

- (a) A guardianship terminates upon the death of the ward person subject to guardianship, upon the expiration of the duration of guardianship established in the order appointing the guardian, or upon order of the court.
- (b) On petition of any person interested in the ward's welfare of the person subject to guardianship the court may terminate a guardianship if the ward person subject to guardianship no longer needs the assistance or protection of a guardian. The court may modify the type of appointment or powers granted to the guardian if the extent of protection or assistance previously granted is currently excessive or insufficient or the ward's capacity of the person subject to guardianship to provide for support, care, education, health, and welfare has so changed as to warrant that action. The court may make any other order that is in the best interests of the ward person subject to guardianship or may grant other appropriate relief.
- (c) Except as otherwise ordered by the court for good cause, the court, before terminating a guardianship, shall follow the same procedures to safeguard the rights of the ward person subject to guardianship as apply to a petition for guardianship. Upon presentation by the petitioner of evidence establishing a prima facie case for termination, the court shall order the termination and discharge the guardian unless it is proven that continuation of the guardianship is in the best interest of the ward person subject to guardianship.
- (d) Any documents or information disclosing or pertaining to health or financial
 information shall be filed as confidential documents, consistent with the bill of particulars
 under section 524.5-121.

Sec. 24. 25

02/07/20 REVISOR JFK/EH 20-6627 as introduced

Sec. 25. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 524.5-403, is amended to read:

	524.5-403 ORIGINAL	A PETITION FOR	APPOINTMENT (OR PROTECTIVE
OR	DER.			

- (a) The following may petition for the appointment of a conservator or for any other appropriate protective order:
- 26.6 (1) the person to be protected;

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- 26.7 (2) an individual interested in the estate, affairs, or welfare of the person to be protected; 26.8 or
- 26.9 (3) a person who would be adversely affected by lack of effective management of the property and business affairs of the person to be protected.
 - (b) The petition must set forth the petitioner's name, residence, current address if different, relationship to the respondent, and interest in the appointment or other protective order, and, to the extent known, state or contain the following with respect to the respondent and the relief requested:
- (1) the respondent's name, age, principal residence, current street address, and, if different, the address of the dwelling where it is proposed that the respondent will reside if the appointment is made;
 - (2) if the petition alleges impairment in the respondent's ability to receive and evaluate information, a brief description of the nature and extent of the respondent's alleged impairment;
 - (3) if the petition alleges that the respondent is missing, detained, or unable to return to the United States, a statement of the relevant circumstances, including the time and nature of the disappearance or detention and a description of any search or inquiry concerning the respondent's whereabouts;
 - (4) the name and address of the respondent's:
- 26.26 (i) spouse, or if the respondent has none, an adult with whom the respondent has resided 26.27 for more than six months before the filing of the petition; and
- 26.28 (ii) adult children <u>including adult step-children</u> or, if the respondent has none, the 26.29 respondent's parents and adult brothers and sisters or, if the respondent has none, at least 26.30 one of the adults nearest in kinship to the respondent who can be found;

Sec. 25. 26

(5) the name of the administrative head and address of the institution where the respondent 27.1 is a patient, resident, or client of any hospital, nursing home, home care agency, or other 27.2 institution; 27.3 (6) the name and address of any legal representative for the respondent; 27.4 27.5 (7) the name and address of any health care agent or proxy appointed pursuant to a health care directive as defined in section 145C.01, a living will under chapter 145B, or other 27.6 similar document executed in another state and enforceable under the laws of this state; 27.7 (8) a general statement of the respondent's property with an estimate of its value, including 27.8 any insurance or pension, and the source and amount of other anticipated income or receipts; 27.9 and 27.10 (9) the reason why a conservatorship or other protective order is in the best interest of 27.11 the respondent-; and 27.12 (10) what less restrictive means have been attempted and considered, how long such 27.13 less restrictive means have been attempted, and a description of why such less restrictive 27.14 means are not sufficient to meet the respondent's identified needs. 27.15 (c) If a conservatorship is requested, the petition must also set forth to the extent known: 27.16 (1) the name, address or post office box, and telephone number of any proposed 27.17 conservator and the reason why the proposed conservator should be selected; 27.18 (2) the name, address or post office box, and telephone number of any person nominated 27.19 as conservator by the respondent if the respondent has attained 14 years of age; and 27.20 (3) the type of conservatorship requested and, if an unlimited conservatorship, the reason 27.21 why limited conservatorship is inappropriate or, if a limited conservatorship, the property 27.22 to be placed under the conservator's control and any limitation on the conservator's powers 27.23 and duties. 27.24 (d) The petition must also set forth the following information regarding the proposed 27.25 conservator or any employee of the conservator responsible for exercising powers and duties 27.26 under the conservatorship: 27.27 (1) whether the proposed conservator has ever been removed for cause from serving as 27.28

(2) if the proposed conservator is a professional guardian or conservator, a summary of

the proposed conservator's educational background and relevant work and other experience;

a guardian or conservator and, if so, the case number and court location;

Sec. 25. 27

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28.1	(3) whether the proposed conservator has ever applied for or held, at any time, any
28.2	professional license from an agency listed under section 524.5-118, subdivision 2a, and if
28.3	so, the name of the licensing agency, and as applicable, the license number and status;
28.4	whether the license is active or has been denied, conditioned, suspended, revoked, or
28.5	canceled; and the basis for the denial, condition, suspension, revocation, or cancellation of
28.6	the license;
28.7	(4) whether the proposed conservator has ever been found civilly liable in an action that
28.8	involved fraud, misrepresentation, material omission, misappropriation, theft, or conversion,
28.9	and if so, the case number and court location;
28.10	(5) whether the proposed conservator has ever filed for or received protection under the
28.11	bankruptcy laws in the last five years, and if so, the case number and court location;
28.12	(6) whether the proposed conservator has any outstanding civil monetary judgments
28.13	against the proposed conservator, and if so, the case number, court location, and outstanding
28.14	amount owed;
28.15	(7) whether an order for protection or harassment restraining order has ever been issued
28.16	against the proposed conservator, and if so, the case number and court location; and
28.17	(8) whether the proposed conservator has ever been convicted of a crime other than a
28.18	petty misdemeanor or traffic offense, and if so, the case number and the crime of which the
28.19	conservator was convicted-; and
28.20	(9) if the proposed conservator is a professional, the proposed conservator's current

- (9) if the proposed conservator is a professional, the proposed conservator's current customary rates, and if the proposed conservator is not a professional, the proposed conservator's current anticipated rates.
- 28.23 (e) Any documents or information disclosing or pertaining to health or financial
 28.24 information shall be filed as confidential documents, consistent with the bill of particulars
 28.25 under section 524.5-121.
- Sec. 26. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 524.5-406, is amended to read:

28.27 **524.5-406 ORIGINAL PETITION: PERSONS UNDER DISABILITY;** 28.28 **PRELIMINARIES TO HEARING.**

(a) Upon the filing of a petition for a conservatorship or other protective order for a respondent for reasons other than being a minor, the court shall set a date for hearing and the court may appoint a visitor. The duties and reporting requirements of the visitor are limited to the relief requested in the petition.

Sec. 26. 28

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(b) A respondent has the right to be represented by counsel at any proceeding under this article. The court shall appoint counsel to represent the respondent for the initial proceeding held pursuant to section 524.5-408 if neither the respondent nor others provide counsel, unless in a meeting with a visitor, the proposed respondent makes an informed decision in writing to specifically waive the right to counsel. Before appointment, and at any time during the course of the representation when a risk of a conflict of interest may arise, the proposed or appointed counsel shall disclose to the court, the proposed protected person subject to conservatorship or protected person subject to conservatorship, and interested persons whether there are concurrent proceedings in which the counsel is the attorney for the proposed conservator or conservator and whether there is a risk of a conflict of interest under Rule 1.7 of the Rules of Professional Conduct so that the representation of the proposed protected person subject to conservatorship or protected person subject to conservatorship will be materially limited by counsel's concurrent responsibilities to the proposed conservator or conservator. If there is a risk of a conflict of interest, the counsel must not be appointed, unless:

- (1) the court determines that the proposed protected person subject to conservatorship or protected person subject to conservatorship is able to give informed consent to the representation and, if the proposed protected person subject to conservatorship or protected person subject to conservatorship consents, the consent is confirmed in writing pursuant to Rule 1.7; or
- (2) the court determines that there is not a risk of a conflict of interest under Rule 1.7 requiring the appointment of different counsel.
- (c) Counsel must be appointed immediately after any petition under this part is served pursuant to section 524.5-404. Counsel has the full right of subpoena. In all proceedings under this part, counsel shall:
 - (1) consult with the respondent before any hearing;
- 29.27 (2) be given adequate time to prepare for all hearings; and
- 29.28 (3) continue to represent the respondent throughout any proceedings under section 524.5-408, provided that such appointment shall expire upon the expiration of the appeal time for the order appointing conservator or the order dismissing a petition, or upon such other time or event as the court may direct.
 - The court need not appoint counsel to represent the respondent on a voluntary petition, and the court may remove a court-appointed attorney at any time if the court finds that the

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respondent has made a knowing and intelligent waiver of the right to counsel or has obtained private counsel.

- (d) The visitor shall personally serve the notice and petition upon the respondent and shall offer to read the notice and petition to the respondent, and if so requested, the visitor shall read the notice and petition to such person. The visitor shall also interview the respondent in person, and to the extent that the respondent is able to understand:
- (1) explain to the respondent the substance of the petition and the nature, purpose, and effect of the proceeding;
- (2) if the appointment of a conservator is requested, inform the respondent of the general powers and duties of a conservator and determine the respondent's views regarding the proposed conservator, the proposed conservator's powers and duties, and the scope and duration of the proposed conservatorship;
- (3) inform the respondent of the respondent's rights, including the right to employ and consult with a lawyer at the respondent's own expense, and the right to request a court-appointed lawyer; and
- (4) inform the respondent that all costs and expenses of the proceeding, including respondent's attorney fees, will be paid from the respondent's estate.
- (e) In addition to the duties set out in paragraph (d), the visitor shall make any other investigations the court directs.
- (f) The visitor shall promptly file, as a confidential document consistent with the bill of particulars under section 524.5-121, a report with the court which must include:
- (1) recommendations regarding the appropriateness of a conservatorship, including whether less restrictive means of intervention are available, the type of conservatorship, and, if a limited conservatorship, the powers and duties to be granted the limited conservator, and the assets over which the conservator should be granted authority;
- (2) a statement as to whether the respondent approves or disapproves of the proposed conservator, and the powers and duties proposed or the scope of the conservatorship; and
 - (3) any other matters the court directs.
- (g) While a petition to establish a conservatorship or for another protective order is pending, after preliminary hearing and without notice to others, the court may make orders to preserve and apply the property of the respondent as may be required for the support of

Sec. 26. 30

the respondent or individuals who are in fact dependent upon the respondent, and may appoint an agent to assist in that task.

Sec. 27. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 524.5-408, is amended to read:

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524.5-408 ORIGINAL PETITION CONSERVATORSHIP PROCEEDINGS: PROCEDURE AT HEARING.

- (a) Unless excused by the court for good cause, the petitioner and the proposed conservator shall attend the hearing. The respondent shall attend and participate in the hearing unless excused by the court for good cause. The petitioner and respondent may present evidence and subpoena witnesses and documents, examine witnesses, including the visitor, and otherwise participate in the hearing. The hearing may be held in a location convenient to the respondent and may be closed upon request of the respondent and a showing of good cause.
- (b) Any person may request permission to participate in the proceeding. The court may grant the request, with or without hearing, upon a showing of good cause and after determining that the best interest of the respondent will be served. The court may attach appropriate conditions to the participation.
- (c) A respondent to any conservatorship or protective proceeding petition and any person subject to conservatorship in any other conservatorship or protective proceeding has not placed his or her health, physical or mental condition in controversy and any denials, allegations or affirmative assertions by the respondent or person subject to conservatorship regarding capacity or their ability to receive and evaluate information do not place such matters in controversy.
- Sec. 28. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 524.5-409, is amended to read:

524.5-409 FINDINGS; ORDER OF APPOINTMENT.

- Subdivision 1. **Limited or unlimited conservator.** (a) The court may appoint a limited or unlimited conservator for a respondent only if it finds that:
- (1) by clear and convincing evidence, the individual is unable to manage property and business affairs because of an impairment in the ability to receive and evaluate information or make decisions, even with the use of appropriate technological assistance, or because the individual is missing, detained, or unable to return to the United States;
- (2) by a preponderance of evidence, the individual has property that will be wasted or dissipated unless management is provided or money is needed for the support, care, education,

Sec. 28. 31

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health, and welfare of the individual or of individuals who are entitled to the individual's support and that protection is necessary or desirable to obtain or provide money; and

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- (3) the respondent's identified needs cannot be met by less restrictive means, including but not limited to use of appropriate technological assistance, supported decision making, representative payee, trusts, banking or bill paying assistance, or appointment of an attorney-in-fact under section 523.01. The court must make specific findings particular to the respondent why less restrictive alternatives do not work.
- (b) Alternatively, the court, with appropriate findings, may enter any other appropriate order, or dismiss the proceeding.
- (c) The court, whenever feasible, shall grant to a conservator only those powers necessitated by the person's limitations and demonstrated needs of the person subject to conservatorship and make appointive and other orders that will encourage the development of the protected person's maximum self-reliance and independence of the person subject to conservatorship.
- (d) Within 14 days after an appointment, the conservator shall send or deliver to the protected person subject to conservatorship, if the protected person subject to conservatorship has attained 14 years of age and is not missing, detained, or unable to return to the United States, and counsel if represented at the hearing, a copy of the order of appointment accompanied by a notice which advises the protected person subject to conservatorship of the right to appeal the conservatorship appointment in the time and manner provided by the Rules of Appellate Procedure.
- (e) Each year, within 30 days after the anniversary date of an appointment, a conservator shall send or deliver to the protected person subject to conservatorship and to interested persons of record with the court a notice of the right to request termination or modification of the conservatorship or for any order that is in the best interests of the protected person subject to conservatorship or for other appropriate relief as well as a copy of the bill of rights for the person subject to conservatorship as provided in section 524.5-120.
- (f) The appointment of a conservator or the entry of another protective order is not a determination of incapacity of the protected person subject to conservatorship.
- Subd. 2. Emergency and temporary conservator. (a) If the court finds that compliance with the procedures of this article will likely result in the immediate loss, waste, or dissipation of the individual's assets or income unless management is provided, or money is needed for the support, care, education, health, and welfare of the individual or of individuals who are entitled to the individual's support and that protection is necessary or desirable to obtain or

Sec. 28. 32

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provide money, and that no other person appears to have authority and willingness to act in the circumstances, the court, on petition by a person interested in the respondent's welfare, may appoint an emergency conservator whose authority may not exceed 60 days and who may exercise only the powers specified in the order. A county that is acting under section 626.557, subdivision 10, by petitioning for appointment of an emergency conservator on behalf of a vulnerable adult may be granted authority to act for a period not to exceed 90 days. An emergency conservator's appointment under this section may be extended once for a period not to exceed 60 days if the court finds good cause for the continuation of the conservatorship. Immediately upon receipt of the petition for an emergency conservatorship, the court shall appoint a lawyer to represent the respondent in the proceeding. Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (b), reasonable notice of the time and place of a hearing on the petition must be given to the respondent and any other persons as the court directs.

- (b) An emergency conservator may be appointed without notice to the respondent and the respondent's lawyer only if the court finds from affidavit or other sworn testimony that the respondent will be substantially harmed before a hearing on the appointment can be held. If the court appoints an emergency conservator without notice to the respondent, the respondent must be given notice of the appointment within 48 hours after the appointment. The court shall hold a hearing on the appropriateness of the appointment within five days after the appointment.
- (c) Appointment of an emergency conservator, with or without notice, is not a determination of the respondent's incapacity.
- (d) The court may remove an emergency conservator at any time. An emergency conservator shall make any report the court requires. In other respects, the provisions of this article concerning conservators apply to an emergency conservator.
- (e) If the court finds that a conservator is not effectively performing the conservator's duties and that the security and preservation of the protected person's assets of the person subject to conservatorship requires immediate action, the court may appoint a temporary substitute conservator for the protected person subject to conservatorship for a specified period not exceeding six months. Except as otherwise ordered by the court, a temporary substitute conservator so appointed has the powers set forth in the previous order of appointment. The authority of any unlimited or limited conservator previously appointed by the court is suspended as long as a temporary substitute conservator has authority. If an appointment is made without previous notice to the protected person subject to conservatorship or the affected conservator within five days after the appointment, the court

Sec. 28. 33

shall inform the <u>protected</u> person <u>subject to conservatorship</u> or conservator of the appointment.

- (f) The court may remove a temporary substitute conservator at any time. A temporary substitute conservator shall make any report the court requires. In other respects, the provisions of this article concerning conservators apply to a temporary substitute conservator.
- 34.6 (g) Any documents or information disclosing or pertaining to health or financial
 34.7 information shall be filed as confidential documents, consistent with the bill of particulars
 34.8 under section 524.5-121.
 - Sec. 29. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 524.5-411, is amended to read:

524.5-411 REQUIRED COURT APPROVAL.

- (a) After notice to affected persons as provided in this section, and after hearing, and upon express authorization of the court, a conservator may:
- 34.13 (1) make gifts;

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- (2) convey, release, or disclaim contingent and expectant interests in property, including marital property rights and any right of survivorship incident to joint tenancy or tenancy by the entireties;
 - (3) exercise or release a power of appointment;
- (4) create a revocable or irrevocable trust of property of the estate, whether or not the trust extends beyond the duration of the conservatorship, or to revoke or amend a trust revocable by the protected person subject to conservatorship;
 - (5) subject to the terms of the plan document, contract, or agreement, exercise rights to elect options and change beneficiaries under insurance policies and annuities or surrender the policies and annuities for their cash value, and any change pursuant to this clause, shall invalidate the existing elections and beneficiary designations;
 - (6) exercise any right to exempt property and an elective share in the estate of the protected person's deceased spouse of the person subject to conservatorship and to renounce or disclaim any interest by testate or intestate succession or by transfer inter vivos;
 - (7) subject to the terms of the plan document, contract, or agreement, exercise rights to elect options and change beneficiaries under any qualified or nonqualified retirement plan including, but not limited to, defined benefit plans, defined contribution plans, plans governed by sections 401(k), 403, 408, or 457 of the Internal Revenue Code and the regulations thereto, and the right to exercise the options provided a plan participant or beneficiary under

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section 401 and related provisions of the Internal Revenue Code and the regulations thereto, and any change pursuant to this clause, shall invalidate the existing elections and beneficiary designations;

- (8) exercise the power to create, terminate, or alter the beneficial interests and beneficiaries of, a payable on death (POD) account, a transfer on death (TOD) security registration or account, or joint tenancy interests with rights of survivorship; and
- (9) make, amend, or revoke the protected person's will of the person subject to conservatorship.
- (b) Notice of any hearing pursuant to this section shall not be given pursuant to section 524.5-113. Notice of any hearing under this section shall be given to all affected persons, in plain language, and shall provide the time and place of the hearing and be given by mail postmarked at least 14 days before the hearing. Proof of notice must be made before or at the hearing and filed in the proceeding. For purposes of this section, notice to "affected persons":
- (1) shall always include (i) the protected person subject to conservatorship, (ii) the duly appointed conservator, (iii) the protected person's heirs-at-law of the person subject to conservatorship, (iv) any state agency or county social services agency paying benefits to or for the benefit of the protected person subject to conservatorship, (v) any state agency to which an application for benefits has been submitted and any state or county agency that has prepared an asset assessment or could prepare an asset assessment under section 256B.059, subdivision 2, for the protected person subject to conservatorship or spouse, and (vi) subject to the limitations of paragraph (c), all beneficiaries of the protected person's existing will or revocable trust of the person subject to conservatorship;
- (2) shall also include, subject to the limitations of paragraph (c), any person who has a beneficial vested or contingent interest that may be affected by the exercise of the power under this section; and
 - (3) shall also include any other persons designated by the court.
- (c) For purposes of this section, when giving notice, or for purposes of giving consent or approval, or objecting with regard to any proceedings under this section, the sole holder or all coholders of a presently exercisable or testamentary general power of appointment, power of revocation, or unlimited power of withdrawal, under an existing will or trust, are deemed to represent and act for beneficiaries to the extent that their interests as objects, takers in default, or otherwise, are subject to the power.

Sec. 29. 35 (d) A conservator, in making, amending, or revoking the protected person's will of the person subject to conservatorship, shall comply with sections 524.2-501 to 524.2-517 acting on behalf of the protected person subject to conservatorship.

- (e) The court, in exercising or in approving a conservator's exercise of the powers listed in paragraph (a), shall consider primarily the decision that the <u>protected</u> person <u>subject to conservatorship</u> would have made, to the extent that the decision can be ascertained. The court shall also consider:
- (1) the financial needs of the <u>protected</u> person <u>subject to conservatorship</u> and the needs of individuals who are dependent on the <u>protected</u> person <u>subject to conservatorship</u> for support and the interests of creditors;
 - (2) possible effect on income, estate, gift, inheritance, or other tax liabilities;
- 36.12 (3) eligibility for governmental assistance with the goal of avoiding reliance on such programs;
 - (4) the protected person's previous pattern of giving or level of support of the person subject to conservatorship;
 - (5) the existing estate plan;

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- (6) the <u>protected person's</u> life expectancy of the person subject to conservatorship and the probability that the conservatorship will terminate before the <u>protected person's</u> death of the person subject to conservatorship;
- (7) whether the <u>protected person's</u> needs <u>of the person subject to conservatorship</u> can be met from the person's remaining assets after any transfer is made, taking into account the effect of any transfer on eligibility for medical assistance long-term care services; and
- 36.23 (8) any other factors the court considers relevant.
 - (f) If an affected person, as defined in this article, is a minor or an incapacitated person as defined by this article and has no guardian or conservator within the state, or if an affected person is unborn, unascertained, or a person whose identity or address is unknown to the petitioner, the court shall represent that person, unless the court, upon the application of the guardian, conservator, or any other affected person, appoints a guardian ad litem to represent the affected person.
 - (g) Notwithstanding the power granted to the conservator by the court under this section, the conservator owes no duty to any person other than the <u>protected</u> person <u>subject to</u> conservatorship. The conservator shall not be held liable for the exercise or the failure to

Sec. 29. 36

exercise, or the decision to exercise or the decision to decline to exercise, the powers granted by this section. The conservator, however, may be held liable to the protected person's estate of the person subject to conservatorship for gross negligence related to the implementation of any action approved by the court under this section.

- (h) The Uniform Guardianship and Protective Proceedings Act does not repeal section 524.2-215 as it applies to wards, protected persons subject to guardianship, persons subject to conservatorship, or respondents, expressly or by implication. If there is a conflict between the act and section 524.2-215, section 524.2-215 controls and the guardian or conservator shall exercise the rights of the ward, protected person subject to guardianship, person subject to conservatorship, or respondent under section 524.2-215 without the need for any court order.
- (i) Any documents or information disclosing or pertaining to health or financial
 information shall be filed as confidential documents, consistent with the bill of particulars
 under section 524.5-121.
- Sec. 30. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 524.5-412, is amended to read:

524.5-412 PROTECTIVE ARRANGEMENTS AND SINGLE TRANSACTIONS.

- (a) If a basis is established for a protective order with respect to an individual, the court, without appointing a conservator, may:
- (1) authorize, direct, or ratify any transaction necessary or desirable to achieve any arrangement for security, service, or care meeting the foreseeable needs of the protected person subject to conservatorship, including:
- (i) subject to the procedural and notice requirements of section 524.5-418, the sale, mortgage, lease, or other transfer of property;
- 37.24 (ii) purchase of an annuity;

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- 37.25 (iii) making a contract for lifetime care, a deposit contract, or a contract for training and education; or
- 37.27 (iv) addition to or establishment of a suitable trust, including a trust created under the
 37.28 Uniform Custodial Trust Act; and or
- (v) establish, fund, and administer an ABLE account for the person subject to
 conservatorship. The conservator may exercise all powers over the ABLE account for the
 benefit of the person subject to conservatorship and shall direct investment of the ABLE
 accounts property in accordance with the provisions of sections 48A.07, subdivision 6;

Sec. 30. 37

501C.0901; and 524.5-423, or as otherwise ordered by the court. The standard of a fiduciary 38.1 shall be applicable to all ABLE account investments by a conservator; and 38.2 (2) authorize, direct, or ratify any other contract, trust, will, or transaction relating to the 38.3 protected person's property and business affairs of the person subject to conservatorship, 38.4 including a settlement of a claim, upon determining that it is in the best interest of the 38.5 protected person subject to conservatorship. 38.6 (b) In deciding whether to approve a protective arrangement or other transaction under 38.7 this section, the court shall consider the factors listed in section 524.5-411, paragraph (e). 38.8 (c) The court may appoint an agent to assist in the accomplishment of any protective 38.9 arrangement or other transaction authorized under this section. The agent has the authority 38.10 conferred by the order and shall serve until discharged by order after report to the court; 38.11 provided, however, that if a conservator is appointed, only the conservator has the power 38.12 to sign all real estate deeds. 38.13 (d) Any documents or information disclosing or pertaining to health or financial 38.14 information shall be filed as confidential documents, consistent with the bill of particulars 38.15 under section 524.5-121. 38.16 Sec. 31. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 524.5-414, is amended to read: 38.17 524.5-414 PETITION FOR ORDER SUBSEQUENT TO APPOINTMENT. 38.18 38.19 (a) A protected person subject to conservatorship or an interested person may file a petition in the appointing court for an order: 38.20 (1) requiring bond or collateral or additional bond or collateral, or reducing bond; 38.21 (2) requiring an accounting for the administration of the protected person's estate of the 38.22 person subject to conservatorship; 38.23 (3) directing distribution; 38.24 (4) removing the conservator and appointing a temporary or successor conservator; 38.25 (5) modifying the type of appointment or powers granted to the conservator if the extent 38.26 of protection or management previously granted is currently excessive or insufficient or the 38.27 protected person's ability of the person subject to conservatorship to manage the estate and 38.28 business affairs has so changed as to warrant the action; or 38.29 (6) acting in the protected person's best interests of the person subject to conservatorship 38.30

Sec. 31. 38

or granting other appropriate relief.

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- 39.1 (b) A conservator may petition the appointing court for instructions concerning fiduciary39.2 responsibility.
 - (c) On notice and hearing the petition, the court may give appropriate instructions and make any appropriate order.
- 39.5 (d) The court may, at its own discretion, waive the notice or hearing requirements for 39.6 the relief requested in a petition filed under this section.
- (e) Any documents or information disclosing or pertaining to health or financial
 information shall be filed as confidential documents, consistent with the bill of particulars
 under section 524.5-121.
- 39.10 Sec. 32. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 524.5-415, is amended to read:

524.5-415 BOND.

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The court may require a conservator to furnish a bond conditioned upon faithful discharge of all duties of the conservatorship according to law, with sureties as it may specify. A bond is not required for any conservator that is a bank or trust company provided the total conservatorship assets do not exceed \$1,000,000. If the conservator is a bank or trust company then a bond shall be required if the conservatorship assets exceed \$1,000,000.

Sec. 33. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 524.5-416, is amended to read:

524.5-416 TERMS AND REQUIREMENTS OF BOND.

- (a) The following rules apply to any bond required:
- 39.20 (1) Except as otherwise provided by the terms of the bond, sureties and the conservator are jointly and severally liable.
 - (2) By executing the bond of a conservator, a surety submits to the jurisdiction of the court that issued letters to the primary obligor in any proceeding pertaining to the fiduciary duties of the conservator in which the surety is named as a party. Notice of any proceeding seeking to surcharge any interested party or the bond must be sent or delivered to the surety at the address shown in the court records at the place where the bond is filed and to any other address then known to the petitioner.
 - (3) On petition of a successor conservator or any interested person, a proceeding may be brought against a surety for breach of the obligation of the bond of the conservator.
- 39.30 (4) The bond of the conservator may be proceeded against until liability under the bond is exhausted.

Sec. 33. 39

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(5) Except as otherwise provided in this section, in any proceeding where the value of the personal property of the estate of the proposed protected person subject to conservatorship in the initial inventory of the estate filed by the conservator under section 524.5-419 is expected to be at least \$10,000, the court shall require the conservator to furnish a bond in an amount that the court determines is necessary to reasonably protect the protected person's assets of the person subject to conservatorship. Joint conservators may unite in a bond or each may give a separate bond.

- (b) In lieu of executing and filing a bond, the conservator may request that access to certain assets of the protected person subject to conservatorship be blocked. The court may grant the request if sufficient evidence is filed with the court to establish that those assets are being held in a manner that prevents the conservator from accessing the assets without a specific court order or the court finds that the manner in which the assets are held is sufficient to protect the assets. To the extent that assets not placed in blocked accounts are expected to be at least \$10,000, the bond requirement under paragraph (a) applies.
- (c) A proceeding may not be brought against a surety on any matter as to which an action or proceeding against the primary obligor is barred.
- 40.17 Sec. 34. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 524.5-417, is amended to read:

524.5-417 GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES OF CONSERVATOR.

- (a) A conservator shall be subject to the control and direction of the court at all times and in all things.
- (b) The court shall grant to a conservator only those powers necessary to provide for the demonstrated needs of the protected person subject to conservatorship.
- (c) The court may appoint a conservator if it determines that all the powers and duties listed in this section are needed to provide for the needs of the <u>protected</u> person <u>subject to conservatorship</u>. The court may also appoint a conservator if it determines that a conservator is necessary to provide for the needs of the <u>protected</u> person <u>subject to conservatorship</u> through the exercise of some, but not all, of the powers and duties listed in this section. The duties and powers of a conservator include, but are not limited to:
- (1) the duty to pay the reasonable charges for the support, maintenance, and education of the protected person subject to conservatorship in a manner suitable to the protected person's station in life of the person subject to conservatorship and the value of the estate. Nothing herein contained shall release parents from obligations imposed by law for the support, maintenance, and education of their children. The conservator has no duty to pay

Sec. 34. 40

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for these requirements out of personal funds. Wherever possible and appropriate, the conservator should meet these requirements through governmental benefits or services to which the <u>protected</u> person <u>subject to conservatorship</u> is entitled, rather than from the <u>protected person's</u> estate <u>of the person subject to conservatorship</u>. Failure to satisfy the needs and requirements of this section shall be grounds for removal, but the conservator shall have no personal or monetary liability;

- (2) the duty to pay out of the protected person's estate of the person subject to conservatorship all lawful debts of the protected person subject to conservatorship and the reasonable charges incurred for the support, maintenance, and education of the protected person's spouse and dependent children of the person subject to conservatorship and, upon order of the court, pay such sum as the court may fix as reasonable for the support of any person unable to earn a livelihood who is legally entitled to support from the protected person subject to conservatorship;
- (3) the duty to possess and manage the estate, collect all debts and claims in favor of the protected person subject to conservatorship, or, with the approval of the court, compromise them, institute suit on behalf of the protected person subject to conservatorship and represent the protected person subject to conservatorship in any court proceedings, expungement proceedings, harassment proceedings, and all civil court proceedings, including but not limited to restraining orders, orders for protection, name changes, conciliation court, housing court, family court, probate court and juvenile court; and invest all funds not currently needed for the debts and charges named in clauses (1) and (2) and the management of the estate, in accordance with the provisions of sections 48A.07, subdivision 6, 501C.0901, and 524.5-423, or as otherwise ordered by the court. The standard of a fiduciary shall be applicable to all investments by a conservator. A conservator shall also have the power to purchase certain contracts of insurance as provided in section 50.14, subdivision 14, clause (b);
- (4) where a protected person subject to conservatorship has inherited an undivided interest in real estate, the court, on a showing that it is for the best interest of the protected person subject to conservatorship, may authorize an exchange or sale of the protected person's interest of the person subject to conservatorship or a purchase by the protected person subject to conservatorship of any interest other heirs may have in the real estate, subject to the procedures and notice requirements of section 524.5-418;
- (5) the power to approve or withhold approval of any contract, except for necessities, which the protected person subject to conservatorship may make or wish to make; and

Sec. 34. 41

(6) the power to apply on behalf of the <u>protected</u> person <u>subject to conservatorship</u> for any assistance, services, or benefits available to the <u>protected</u> person <u>subject to</u> conservatorship through any unit of government-; and

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- (7) the power to establish an ABLE account for the person subject to conservatorship. The conservator may exercise all powers over the ABLE account for the benefit of the person subject to conservatorship and shall direct investment of the ABLE accounts property in accordance with the provisions of sections 48A.07, subdivision 6, 501C.0901, and 524.5-423, or as otherwise ordered by the court. The standard of a fiduciary shall be applicable to all ABLE account investments by a conservator.
- (d) The conservator shall have the power to revoke, suspend, or terminate all or any part of a durable power of attorney of which the <u>protected</u> person <u>subject to conservatorship</u> is the principal with the same power the principal would have if the principal were not incapacitated. If a durable power of attorney is in effect, a decision of the conservator takes precedence over that of an attorney-in-fact.
- (e) Transaction set aside. If a protected person subject to conservatorship has made a financial transaction or gift or entered into a contract during the two-year period before establishment of the conservatorship, the conservator may petition for court review of the transaction, gift, or contract. If the court finds that the protected person subject to conservatorship was incapacitated or subject to duress, coercion, or undue influence when the transaction, gift, or contract was made, the court may declare the transaction, gift, or contract void except as against a bona fide transferee for value and order reimbursement or other appropriate relief. This paragraph does not affect any other right or remedy that may be available to the protected person subject to conservatorship with respect to the transaction, gift, or contract.
- (f) After the filing of the petition, a certificate of the district court certified to that fact may be filed for record with the Minnesota secretary of state in the same manner as provided in section 336.9-501. The certificate shall state that a petition is pending and the name and address of the person for whom a conservator is sought. If a conservator is appointed on the petition, and if the conservatorship order removes or restricts the right of the protected person subject to conservatorship to transfer property or to contract, then all contracts except for necessaries, and all transfers of personal property, tangible or intangible, including, but not limited to, cash or securities transfers at banks, brokerage houses, or other financial institutions, or transfers of cash or securities, made by the protected person subject to conservatorship after the filing and before the termination of the conservatorship shall be voidable.

Sec. 34. 42

(g) Unless otherwise ordered by the court, if the person subject to conservatorship shall at any time during the continuance of the conservatorship be employed, the wages or salary for employment of the person subject to conservatorship shall not be a part of the conservatorship estate and the wages and salaries shall be paid to the person subject to conservatorship and shall be subject to the control of the person subject to conservatorship to the same extent as if the conservatorship did not exist. The conservator shall not have to account for the wages and salary.

Sec. 35. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 524.5-420, is amended to read:

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524.5-420 REPORTS; APPOINTMENT OF VISITOR; MONITORING; COURT ORDERS.

- (a) A conservator shall report to the court for administration of the estate annually unless the court otherwise directs, upon resignation or removal, upon termination of the conservatorship, and at other times as the court directs. An order, after notice and hearing, allowing an intermediate report of a conservator adjudicates liabilities concerning the matters adequately disclosed in the accounting. An order, after notice and hearing, allowing a final report adjudicates all previously unsettled liabilities relating to the conservatorship.
- (b) A report must state or contain a listing of the assets of the estate under the conservator's control and a listing of the receipts, disbursements, and distributions during the reporting period.
- (c) The report must also state an address <u>or post office box</u> and <u>a</u> telephone number where the conservator can be contacted.
- (d) A conservator shall report to the court in writing within 30 days of the occurrence of any of the events listed in this paragraph. The conservator must report any of the occurrences in this paragraph and follow the same reporting requirements in this paragraph for any employee of the conservator responsible for exercising powers and duties under the conservatorship. A copy of the report must be provided to the <u>protected</u> person <u>subject to conservatorship</u> and to interested persons of record with the court. A conservator shall report when:
- (1) the conservator is removed for cause from serving as a guardian or conservator, and if so, the case number and court location;
- 43.31 (2) the conservator has a professional license from an agency listed under section
 43.32 524.5-118, subdivision 2a, denied, conditioned, suspended, revoked, or canceled, and if so,

Sec. 35. 43

the licensing agency and license number, and the basis for denial, condition, suspension, revocation, or cancellation of the license;

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- (3) the conservator is found civilly liable in an action that involves fraud, misrepresentation, material omission, misappropriation, theft, or conversion, and if so, the case number and court location;
- (4) the conservator files for or receives protection under the bankruptcy laws, and if so, the case number and court location;
 - (5) a civil monetary judgment is entered against the conservator, and if so, the case number, court location, and outstanding amount owed;
 - (6) the conservator is convicted of a crime other than a petty misdemeanor or traffic offense, and if so, the case number and court location; or
 - (7) an order for protection or harassment restraining order is issued against the conservator, and if so, the case number and court location.
 - (e) A protected person subject to conservatorship or an interested person of record with the court may submit to the court a written statement disputing account statements regarding the administration of the estate or addressing any disciplinary or legal action that is contained in the reports and may petition the court for any order that is in the best interests of the protected person subject to conservatorship and the estate or for other appropriate relief.
 - (f) An interested person may notify the court in writing that the interested person does not wish to receive copies of reports required under this section after which time neither the court nor any other person is required to give notice to any person who has waived notice.
 - (g) The court may appoint a visitor to review a report or plan, interview the protected person subject to conservatorship or conservator, and make any other investigation the court directs. In connection with a report, the court may order a conservator to submit the assets of the estate to an appropriate examination to be made in a manner the court directs.
 - (h) The court shall establish a system for monitoring of conservatorships, including the filing and review of conservators' reports and plans. If an annual report is not filed within 60 days of the required date, the court shall issue an order to show cause.
 - (i) If there is no acting guardian, a conservator that becomes aware of the death of the person subject to conservatorship shall notify in writing; orally; or by phone, text message, e-mail, or electronic service, all known interested persons as defined by section 524.5-102, subdivision 7, clauses (iii), (iv), (v), (vi), (ix), and (xi), and the court as soon as is reasonably

Sec. 35. 44

practical, that the person subject to conservatorship has died. The conservator may delegate this task under reasonable circumstances.

- (i) (j) If a conservator fails to comply with this section, the court may decline to appoint that person as a guardian or conservator, or may remove a person as guardian or conservator.
- Sec. 36. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 524.5-423, is amended to read:

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524.5-423 SALE, ENCUMBRANCE, OR OTHER TRANSACTION INVOLVING CONFLICT OF INTEREST.

Any transaction involving the conservatorship estate which is affected by a conflict between the conservator's fiduciary and personal interests is voidable unless the transaction is expressly authorized by the court after notice to interested persons. A transaction affected by a conflict between personal and fiduciary interests includes any sale, encumbrance, or other transaction involving the conservatorship estate entered into by the conservator, the spouse, descendant, agent, or lawyer of a conservator, or corporation or other enterprise in which the conservator has a beneficial interest. Notwithstanding a conflict between the conservator's fiduciary and personal interests, if the protected person is a parent, child, or sibling of the conservator, the court has discretion to allow a transaction of beneficial interest to the conservator, as long as the conservator can prove that this transaction is primarily in the best interest of the protected person.

Sec. 37. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 524.5-431, is amended to read:

524.5-431 TERMINATION OF PROCEEDINGS.

- (a) A conservatorship terminates upon the death of the <u>protected</u> person <u>subject to</u> <u>conservatorship</u> or upon order of the court. Unless created for reasons other than that the <u>protected</u> person <u>subject to conservatorship</u> is a minor, a conservatorship created for a minor also terminates when the <u>protected</u> person <u>subject to conservatorship</u> attains majority or is emancipated.
- (b) Upon the death of a protected person subject to conservatorship, the conservator shall conclude the administration of the estate by distribution of probate property to the personal representative of the protected person's estate of the person subject to conservatorship. The conservator shall distribute nonprobate property to the successor in interest. The conservator shall file a final report and petition for discharge no later than 30 days after distribution, and notice of hearing for allowance of said report shall be given to interested persons and to the personal representative of the protected person's estate of the person subject to conservatorship.

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(c) On petition of any person interested in the protected person's welfare of the person subject to conservatorship, the court may terminate the conservatorship if the protected person subject to conservatorship no longer needs the assistance or protection of a conservator. Termination of the conservatorship does not affect a conservator's liability for previous acts or the obligation to account for funds and assets of the protected person subject to conservatorship.

- (d) Except as otherwise ordered by the court for good cause, before terminating a conservatorship, the court shall follow the same procedures to safeguard the rights of the protected person subject to conservatorship that apply to a petition for conservatorship. Upon the establishment of a prima facie case for termination, the court shall order termination unless it is proved that continuation of the conservatorship is in the best interest of the protected person subject to conservatorship.
- (e) Upon termination of a conservatorship, whether or not formally distributed by the conservator, title to assets of the estate remains vested in the formerly protected person subject to conservatorship or passes to the person's successors subject to administration, including claims of creditors and allowances of surviving spouse and dependent children, and subject to the rights of others resulting from abatement, retainer, advancement, and ademption. The order of termination must provide for payment of expenses of administration and include payment of fees and costs of final administration for guardians, conservators, and attorneys. The order must direct the conservator to execute appropriate instruments to evidence the transfer of title or confirm a distribution previously made and to file a final report and a petition for discharge upon approval of the final report.
- (f) The court shall enter a final order of discharge upon the approval of the final report and satisfaction by the conservator of any other conditions placed by the court on the conservator's discharge.
- 46.26 (g) Any documents or information disclosing or pertaining to health or financial information shall be filed as confidential documents, consistent with the bill of particulars 46.27 under section 524.5-121. 46.28

Sec. 38. [524.5-503] PROHIBITED PRACTICES.

Subdivision 1. Health care provider. A health care provider, health care service plan, insurer, self-insured employee welfare benefit plan, or nonprofit hospital plan may not condition admission to a facility, or the providing of treatment or insurance, on the requirement that an individual have a guardian or conservator.

Sec. 38. 46 Subd. 2. **Definitions.** "Health care provider" has the definition given in section 145C.01, subdivision 6.

- Sec. 39. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 609.748, subdivision 2, is amended to read:
- Subd. 2. **Restraining order; court jurisdiction.** A person who is a victim of harassment or the victim's guardian or conservator may seek a restraining order from the district court in the manner provided in this section. The parent, guardian or conservator, or stepparent of a minor who is a victim of harassment may seek a restraining order from the district court on behalf of the minor. An application for relief under this section may be filed in the county of residence of either party or in the county in which the alleged harassment occurred. There are no residency requirements that apply to a petition for a harassment restraining order.
- 47.11 Sec. 40. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 611A.01, is amended to read:

611A.01 DEFINITIONS.

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- For the purposes of sections 611A.01 to 611A.06:
- (a) "Crime" means conduct that is prohibited by local ordinance and results in bodily harm to an individual; or conduct that is included within the definition of "crime" in section 609.02, subdivision 1, or would be included within that definition but for the fact that (1) the person engaging in the conduct lacked capacity to commit the crime under the laws of this state, or (2) the act was alleged or found to have been committed by a juvenile.
- (b) "Victim" means a natural person who incurs loss or harm as a result of a crime, including a good faith effort to prevent a crime, and for purposes of sections 611A.04 and 611A.045, also includes (1) a corporation that incurs loss or harm as a result of a crime, (2) a government entity that incurs loss or harm as a result of a crime, and (3) any other entity authorized to receive restitution under section 609.10 or 609.125. The term "victim" includes the family members, guardian, conservator, or custodian of a minor, incompetent, incapacitated, or deceased person. In a case where the prosecutor finds that the number of family members makes it impracticable to accord all of the family members the rights described in sections 611A.02 to 611A.0395, the prosecutor shall establish a reasonable procedure to give effect to those rights. The procedure may not limit the number of victim impact statements submitted to the court under section 611A.038. The term "victim" does not include the person charged with or alleged to have committed the crime.
- (c) "Juvenile" has the same meaning as given to the term "child" in section 260B.007, subdivision 3.

Sec. 40. 47

48.1	Sec. 41. <u>REVISOR INSTRUCTION.</u>
48.2	The revisor of statutes shall substitute the term "person subject to guardianship" for the
48.3	term "ward" and "person subject to conservatorship" for the term "protected person" in

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as introduced

48.4 Minnesota Statutes, sections 524.5-101 to 524.5-505, except in section 524.5-102,

subdivisions 7, 14, and 17. The revisor shall make grammatical changes related to the change

48.6 <u>in terms.</u>

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REVISOR

Sec. 41. 48