

Chapter 257

(House Bill 1275)

AN ACT concerning

Maryland Uniform Adult Guardianship and Protective Proceedings Jurisdiction Act

FOR the purpose of establishing the Maryland Uniform Adult Guardianship and Protective Proceedings Jurisdiction Act; authorizing a court of this State to treat a foreign country as if the country were a state for the purpose of applying certain provisions of this Act; prohibiting a court of this State from treating a foreign country as if the country were a state for the purposes of applying certain provisions of this Act unless a court of this State makes a certain finding; authorizing a court of this State to make a certain request of an appropriate court of another state in a certain guardianship or protective proceeding in this State and to grant a certain request from an appropriate court of another state in a certain guardianship or protective proceeding in that state; authorizing the offer of testimony by deposition or certain other means in a certain guardianship or protective proceeding; requiring a court of this State to cooperate with courts of other states in designating an appropriate location for a deposition or testimony in a certain guardianship or protective proceeding; establishing that a court of this State has jurisdiction to appoint a guardian or issue a protective order for a certain respondent under certain circumstances; establishing that a court of this State that lacks certain jurisdiction under this Act has special jurisdiction to take certain steps; requiring a court in this State to dismiss a certain proceeding at the request of a certain court in another state under certain circumstances; establishing that a court that has appointed a guardian or issued a protective order consistent with this Act has exclusive and continuing jurisdiction over the proceeding until the proceeding is terminated by the court or the appointment or order expires by the terms of the appointment or order; authorizing a court to decline to exercise jurisdiction under certain circumstances; requiring a court that declines jurisdiction to take certain steps in certain circumstances; authorizing a court to take certain steps if a certain determination is made; requiring a certain petitioner to provide certain notice to certain persons; authorizing a court to proceed or requiring the court to take certain steps on the filing of a certain petition under certain circumstances; authorizing a certain guardian or conservator to petition a court to transfer a guardianship or conservatorship to another state under certain circumstances; providing that a certain notice of a petition to transfer a guardianship or conservatorship to another state be given under certain circumstances; requiring a court to hold a hearing on a certain petition under certain circumstances; requiring a court to issue a provisional order granting a petition to transfer a guardianship or conservatorship to another state on a

certain finding; requiring a guardian or conservator to petition a court in this State to accept a certain guardianship or conservatorship under certain circumstances; providing that a certain notice of a petition to accept a guardianship or conservatorship be given under certain circumstances; requiring a court to hold a hearing on a certain petition under certain circumstances; requiring a court to issue a provisional order approving a certain petition unless a certain objection is made; requiring a court to recognize a guardianship or conservatorship order from another state under certain circumstances; establishing that the denial of a petition to accept a guardianship or conservatorship from another state does not affect the ability of a certain person to seek a certain court appointment; authorizing a guardian appointed in another state to register a certain guardianship order in this State as a foreign judgment under certain circumstances; authorizing a conservator appointed in another state to register a certain conservatorship order in this State as a foreign judgment under certain circumstances; authorizing, with certain exceptions, a certain guardian or conservator to exercise certain powers in this State; authorizing a court in this State to grant certain relief to enforce a certain registered order; providing for the application of this Act; establishing that this Act modifies, limits, and supersedes certain provisions of federal law; making certain technical corrections; defining certain terms; and generally relating to adult guardianship and protective proceedings.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Estates and Trusts

Section 13–101(a), (e), and (h), 13–201 through 13–206, 13–208 through 13–221,
and 13–705 through 13–713

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2001 Replacement Volume and 2009 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Estates and Trusts

Section 13–105, 13–207, 13–222, and 13–704

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2001 Replacement Volume and 2009 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – Estates and Trusts

Section 13.5–101 through 13.5–504 to be under the new title “Title 13.5.
Maryland Uniform Adult Guardianship and Protective Proceedings
Jurisdiction Act”

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2001 Replacement Volume and 2009 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Estates and Trusts

13–101.

(a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

(e) “Disabled person” means a person other than a minor who:

(1) (i) Has been judged by a court to be unable to manage his property for reasons listed in § 13–201(c)(1) of this title; and

(ii) As a result of this inability requires a guardian of his property; or

(2) (i) Has been judged by a court to be unable to provide for his daily needs sufficiently to protect his health or safety for reasons listed in § 13–705(b) of this title; and

(ii) As a result of this inability requires a guardian of the person.

(h) “Guardian” means a guardian of an estate appointed by a court under Subtitle 2 of this title to manage the property of a disabled person or minor or a guardian of a person appointed by a court under Subtitle 7 of this title, according to the context in which it is used.

13–105.

(a) (1) The orphans’ courts and the circuit courts have concurrent jurisdiction over guardians of the person of a minor and over protective proceedings for minors.

(2) Upon petition of an interested person, a matter initiated in the orphans’ court may be transferred to the circuit court.

(b) **[The] SUBJECT TO TITLE 13.5 OF THIS ARTICLE, THE** circuit courts have exclusive jurisdiction over protective proceedings for disabled persons.

(c) (1) An orphans’ court may exercise jurisdiction over guardianship of the person of a minor if the presiding judge of the orphans’ court is a member of the bar, regardless of whether the minor who is the subject of the petition for guardianship of the person has property, may inherit property, or is destitute.

(2) An orphans’ court that exercises jurisdiction or is requested to exercise jurisdiction under this subsection may:

(i) Transfer the matter to the circuit court on a finding that the best interests of the child require utilization of the equitable powers of the circuit court; and

(ii) Waive the costs, if any, of a transfer under this paragraph.

13–201.

(a) Upon petition, and after any notice or hearing prescribed by law or the Maryland Rules, the court may appoint a guardian of the property of a minor or a disabled person.

(b) A guardian shall be appointed if the court determines that:

(1) A minor owns or is entitled to property that requires management or protection; or

(2) Funds are needed for his support, care, welfare, and education and protection is necessary or desirable to obtain or provide funds.

(c) A guardian shall be appointed if the court determines that:

(1) The person is unable to manage his property and affairs effectively because of physical or mental disability, disease, habitual drunkenness, addiction to drugs, imprisonment, compulsory hospitalization, confinement, detention by a foreign power, or disappearance; and

(2) The person has or may be entitled to property or benefits which require proper management.

13–202.

Venue in proceedings under this subtitle shall be as provided by the Maryland Rules.

13–203.

(a) While a petition for appointment of a guardian or other protective order is pending, the court may preserve and apply the property of the alleged disabled person or minor as may be required. The court need not give notice to other persons.

(b) The court may not exercise the power conferred by subsection (a) unless it appears from specific facts shown by affidavit that immediate, substantial, and irreparable injury will result to the applicant or to the minor or disabled person before an adversary hearing can be held. The court may communicate informally with the

minor or disabled person prior to taking action. Any order shall be served immediately on the minor or disabled person.

(c) (1) Except for the limitations contained in § 13–106 of this title, after appointment of the guardian, the court has all the powers over the property of the minor or disabled person that the person could exercise if not disabled or a minor.

(2) The powers that a circuit court has under paragraph (1) of this subsection include the power to authorize or direct the guardian to:

(i) Make gifts from the principal and income of the estate; and

(ii) Disclaim on behalf of the minor or disabled person, in whole or in part, the right of succession or transfer to that person of any property or interest in any property.

(3) The powers that a circuit court has under paragraph (2) of this subsection are in addition to and may not limit the power:

(i) Conferred upon the guardian to make distributions under § 13–214 of this subtitle; and

(ii) Conferred upon the guardian or the circuit court, without appointing a guardian, to disclaim or authorize or direct a disclaimer on behalf of a minor or disabled person under § 9–201(c) of this article.

(d) A guardian or any other interested person may invoke the jurisdiction of the court at any time to resolve questions concerning the estate or its administration.

13–204.

(a) If a basis exists as described in § 13–201 of this subtitle for assuming jurisdiction over the property of a minor or disabled person, the circuit court, without appointing a guardian, may authorize or direct a transaction with respect to the property, service, or care arrangement of the minor or disabled person. These transactions include but are not limited to:

(1) Payment, delivery, deposit, or retention of funds or property;

(2) Sale, mortgage, lease, or other transfer of property;

(3) Purchase of contracts for an annuity, life care, training, or education; or

(4) Any other transaction described in:

- (i) § 13–203(c)(2) of this subtitle;
- (ii) Title 9, Subtitle 2 of this article; or
- (iii) § 15–102 of this article.

(b) Before approving a transaction or arrangement under this section, the court shall consider the interests of creditors and dependents of the minor or disabled person and whether the property of the minor or disabled person needs the continuing protection provided by a guardian.

13–205.

An adjudication under this subtitle shall have no bearing on the issue of capacity of the alleged disabled person to care for his own person.

13–206.

(a) Subject to the provisions of § 13–207 of this subtitle, the court may appoint as guardian of the estate of a minor or disabled person:

- (1) Any individual;
- (2) Any trust company; or
- (3) Any other corporation authorized by law to serve as a trustee.

(b) The appointed guardian shall qualify by filing any required bond.

(c) (1) The appointment and qualification of a guardian vests in him title to all property of the minor or protected person that is held at the time of appointment or acquired later. The appointment is not a transfer or alienation within the meaning of any federal or State statute or regulation, insurance policy, pension plan, contract, will, or trust instrument that imposes restrictions on or penalties for transfer or alienation by the minor or disabled person of his rights or interest. A guardian shall utilize powers conferred by this subtitle to perform the services, exercise his discretion, and discharge his duties for the best interest of the minor or disabled person or his dependents.

(2) If a trust company is appointed guardian, a court may order any money paid to the court for the benefit of the minor or disabled person to be deposited with the trust company.

(d) The guardian is the statutory agent of the minor or disabled person for the purpose of filing all government reports and returns.

13-207.

(a) Persons are entitled to appointment as guardian for a minor or disabled person according to the following priorities:

(1) A conservator, committee, guardian of property, or other like fiduciary appointed by any appropriate court of any foreign jurisdiction in which the minor or disabled person resides;

(2) A person or corporation nominated by the minor or disabled person if the designation was signed by the minor or disabled person after his 16th birthday, and, in the opinion of the court, he had sufficient mental capacity to make an intelligent choice at the time he executed the designation;

(3) His spouse;

(4) His parents;

(5) A person or corporation nominated by the will of a deceased parent;

(6) His children;

(7) The persons who would be his heirs if he were dead;

(8) A person or corporation nominated by a person who, or institution, organization, or public agency which, is caring for him;

(9) A person or corporation nominated by a governmental agency which is paying benefits to him; **AND**

(10) Any other person considered appropriate by the court.

(b) A person specified in a priority in subsection (a)(1), (3), (4), (6) or (7) may waive and nominate in writing a person or corporation to serve in his stead. A nominee of a person holding a priority has the same priority as the person making the nomination.

(c) Among persons with equal priority, the court shall select the one best qualified of those willing to serve. For good cause the court may pass over a person with priority and appoint a person with less priority or no priority.

(d) Nonresidence does not disqualify any person from serving as guardian. Any nonresident who is appointed cannot qualify until he has on file with the register or clerk an irrevocable designation by him of an appropriate person who resides in the

State on whom service of process may be made in the same manner and with the effect as if it were served personally in the State on the nonresident.

(e) The court may not name an official or employee of a local department of social services, the State Department of Human Resources, a local area agency on aging as defined in § 10–101 of the Human Services Article, or the Department of Aging as guardian of the estate.

13–208.

(a) Where the instrument nominating a guardian excuses a noncorporate guardian from furnishing bond, the court shall not require a bond unless exceptional circumstances are shown to exist which make it necessary to require a bond for the safety of those interested in the administration of the estate.

(b) A corporate guardian shall not be required to furnish bond.

(c) In the case of a noncorporate guardian, including a substituted or successor or reinstated guardian nominated by the court or nominated under an instrument which is silent as to bond, the court may, subject to subsection (d) of this section, require a bond if, in its discretion, it finds it necessary for the safety of those interested in the administration of the estate.

(d) In a guardian estate consisting entirely of cash, deposited as provided in the rules, securities or real property, or any combination of them which cannot be transferred by the guardian without the approval of the court, not exceeding \$10,000, the court shall not require a guardian to furnish or continue in effect a bond, unless exceptional circumstances are shown to exist.

(e) The penalty of the bond shall not be greater than the aggregate value of the property of the estate under the control of the guardian, less the value of securities or money deposited in a financial institution as defined in § 13–301(h) of this title under arrangements requiring an order of the court for their removal, and the value of any land which the guardian, by express limitation of power, lacks power to sell or convey without court authorization. The court may, in lieu of sureties on a bond, accept other security for the performance of the bond, including a pledge of securities or a mortgage of land. The court may at any time, subject to the maximum penalty provided by this section, require the amount of the bond, or the type or value of security, to be changed. The approval of a new bond shall not discharge a bond filed previously from any liability which may have accrued before approval.

(f) The terms of any bond shall be as provided by the Maryland Rules.

13–209.

Inventory and accounting in proceedings under this subtitle shall be as provided by the Maryland Rules.

13-210.

(a) An interested person may file a petition for an order:

(1) Requiring bond, security, additional bond, or security in an estate where bond can be required;

(2) Requiring an accounting of the administration of the estate;

(3) Directing distribution;

(4) Removing the guardian and appointing a successor guardian; or

(5) Granting other appropriate relief.

(b) A guardian may petition the appointing court for permission to act in any matter relating to the administration of the estate.

(c) Upon hearing after notice and upon good cause shown, the court may issue an appropriate order.

13-211.

(a) There shall be no jury trial in protective proceedings. Procedures for notice to interested persons, the forms of petitions, and the conduct of and requirements at hearings are as provided in the Maryland Rules.

(b) Unless the alleged disabled person has counsel of his own choice, the court shall appoint an attorney to represent him in the proceeding.

13-212.

In the administration of the estate and the exercise of his powers, a guardian shall exercise the care and skill of a man of ordinary prudence dealing with his own property.

13-213.

All the provisions of § 15-102 of this article with respect to the powers of a fiduciary and the manner of exercise of those powers are applicable to a guardian.

13-214.

(a) A guardian may distribute or disburse property without court authorization or confirmation in accordance with this section.

(b) (1) A guardian of a minor may pay or apply income and principal from the estate as needed for the clothing, support, care, protection, welfare, and education of the minor.

(2) A guardian of a disabled person may pay or apply income and principal from the estate as needed for the clothing, support, care, protection, welfare, and rehabilitation of the disabled person. He shall give consideration to the support and care of the disabled person during the probable period of the estate and the needs of persons dependent upon the disabled person.

(3) Income and principal also may be paid or applied for the benefit of persons legally dependent upon the minor or disabled person and, with the approval of the court, for the benefit of other persons maintained and supported in whole or in part by the disabled person prior to the appointment of a guardian.

(c) (1) When a minor attains his majority, his guardian, after meeting all prior claims and expenses of administration, shall distribute the estate to the former minor as soon as possible, unless the minor is then disabled. The distribution normally shall be in kind.

(2) If the guardian is satisfied that the disability of the disabled person has ceased or if the court has found in a proceeding under § 13–221 of this subtitle that the disability has ceased, the guardian, after meeting all prior claims and expenses of administration, shall distribute the estate to the former disabled person as soon as possible. The distribution normally shall be in kind.

(3) When a minor or disabled person dies, the guardian shall deliver to the appropriate probate court for safekeeping any will of the deceased person in his possession, inform the personal representative or a beneficiary named in it that he has done so, and retain the estate for delivery to an appointed personal representative of the decedent or other person entitled to it.

(4) If a guardianship is terminated for reasons other than the attainment of majority, cessation of disability, or death of the protected person, the guardian shall distribute the estate in accordance with the order of the court terminating the guardianship.

13–215.

Any limitation on the powers of a guardian contained in a will or other instrument which nominated a guardian should ordinarily be imposed by the court on the guardian. If the court limits any power conferred on the guardian by § 13–214 of

this subtitle or § 15–102 of this article, the limitation shall be endorsed upon his letters of appointment.

13–216.

(a) If the exercise of a power is improper, the guardian is liable for breach of his fiduciary duty to the minor or disabled person or to interested persons for resulting damage or loss to the same extent as a trustee of an express trust.

(b) The rights of purchasers and others dealing with a guardian shall be determined as provided in § 13–219 and are not necessarily affected by the fact that the guardian breached his fiduciary duty in the transaction.

13–217.

(a) Letters of guardianship may be recorded in the land records of the county of residence of the minor or disabled person and of any other county where there is real estate in which the estate has an interest. The recordation has the same effect as notice as recording a conveyance from the minor or disabled person to the guardian.

(b) Orders of the court modifying or terminating letters of guardianship or authorizing making a conveyance or doing any other act with respect to interests in real estate constituting part of the estate may be recorded in a similar manner and with similar effect.

13–218.

Except in unusual circumstances, the guardian is entitled to the same compensation and reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses as the trustee of a trust. No petition or hearing is required to entitle the guardian to compensation and expenses. Upon the petition of any interested person and upon a finding by the court that unusual circumstances exist, the court may increase or decrease compensation.

13–219.

In the absence of actual knowledge or of reasonable cause to inquire whether the guardian is improperly exercising his power, a person dealing with the guardian need not inquire whether the guardian is exercising it properly, and is protected as if the guardian properly exercised the power, except that every person is charged with actual knowledge of any limitations endorsed on the letters of guardianship. A person need not see to the proper application of estate assets paid or delivered to a guardian.

13–220.

(a) The appointment of a guardian terminates when the guardianship terminates under § 13-221 and may be terminated sooner by his death, disability, resignation, or removal.

(b) Termination of appointment of a guardian has the effects provided in this section.

(1) Termination ends the right and power pertaining to the office of guardian. Unless otherwise ordered by the court, a guardian whose appointment has been terminated shall perform acts necessary to protect the estate and deliver the property to the successor guardian.

(2) Subject to the provisions of the Maryland Rules, termination does not discharge a guardian from liability for transactions or omissions occurring before termination, or relieve him of the duty to preserve, account for, and deliver to his successor property subject to his control.

(3) All lawful acts of a guardian before the termination of his appointment shall remain valid and effective.

(c) The death of a guardian or the decree of a court of competent jurisdiction that he is under legal disability shall terminate his appointment. The personal representative of a deceased guardian or the person appointed to protect the estate of a guardian under legal disability shall have the duty to protect property belonging to the estate being administered by the deceased or disabled guardian.

(1) He shall have the power to perform acts necessary for the protection of property.

(2) He shall immediately account for and deliver the property to a successor guardian.

(3) He shall apply immediately to the court for the appointment of a successor guardian to carry on the administration of the estate which was being administered by the deceased or disabled guardian in accordance with the Maryland Rules.

(d) A guardian who desires to resign his office may do so in accordance with the provisions of the same Maryland Rules by which a fiduciary may resign his office.

13-221.

(a) The minor or disabled person, his personal representative, the guardian, or any other interested person may petition the court to terminate the guardianship proceedings.

- (b) A guardianship proceeding shall terminate upon:
- (1) The cessation of the minority or disability;
 - (2) The death or presumptive death of the minor or disabled person;
 - (3) Transfer of all the assets of the estate to a foreign fiduciary; or
 - (4) Other good cause for termination as may be shown to the satisfaction of the court.

(c) Termination and final distribution of the estate of a former minor or disabled person shall be made in compliance with the provisions of the Maryland Rules, applying to a fiduciary.

13-222.

(a) [When no guardianship proceeding is pending in the state, a] A guardian, conservator, committee, or other similar fiduciary, appointed by the appropriate court of another jurisdiction to manage the property of a protected person who is a resident of that jurisdiction, may exercise in the state all powers of his office, including the power to sell, purchase, or mortgage real estate in the state, collect, receipt for, and take possession of money due, tangible personal property, or an instrument evidencing a debt, obligation, stock, or chose in action located in the state, and remove it to the other jurisdiction. Subject to any statute or rule relating to nonresidents, he may sue and be sued in the state.

(b) Before receiving actual notice of the pendency of a guardianship proceeding in the state, a person who has changed his position by relying on the powers granted by this section may not be prejudiced by the pendency of the proceeding.

13-704.

The court may superintend and direct the care of a disabled person, appoint a guardian of the person, and pass orders and decrees respecting the person as seems proper, including an order directing the disabled person to be sent to a hospital. Procedures in these cases shall be as prescribed by the Maryland Rules and in accordance with the provisions of this subtitle **AND TITLE 13.5 OF THIS ARTICLE**.

13-705.

(a) On petition and after any notice or hearing prescribed by law or the Maryland Rules, a court may appoint a guardian of the person of a disabled person.

(b) A guardian of the person shall be appointed if the court determines from clear and convincing evidence that a person lacks sufficient understanding or capacity to make or communicate responsible decisions concerning his person, including provisions for health care, food, clothing, or shelter, because of any mental disability, disease, habitual drunkenness, or addiction to drugs, and that no less restrictive form of intervention is available which is consistent with the person's welfare and safety.

(c) (1) Procedures and venue in these cases shall be as described by Title 10, Chapters 100 and 200 of the Maryland Rules.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (1) of this subsection, a petition for guardianship of a disabled person shall include signed and verified certificates of competency from the following health care professionals:

(i) Two licensed physicians who have examined the disabled person; or

(ii) 1. One licensed physician who has examined the disabled person; and

2. A. One licensed psychologist who has evaluated the disabled person; or

B. One licensed certified social worker—clinical who has evaluated the disabled person.

(3) An examination or evaluation by at least one of the health care professionals under paragraph (2) of this subsection shall occur within 21 days before filing a petition for guardianship of a disabled person.

(d) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, unless the alleged disabled person has counsel of his own choice, the court shall appoint an attorney to represent him in the proceeding. If the person is indigent, the State shall pay a reasonable attorney's fee.

(2) In any action in which payment for the services of a court-appointed attorney for the alleged disabled person is the responsibility of the local department of social services, unless the court finds that it would not be in the best interests of the alleged disabled person, the court shall:

(i) Appoint an attorney who has contracted with the Department of Human Resources to provide those services, in accordance with the terms of the contract; and

(ii) In an action in which an attorney has previously been appointed, strike the appearance of the attorney previously appointed and appoint the

attorney who is currently under contract with the Department of Human Resources, in accordance with the terms of the contract.

(e) The person alleged to be disabled is entitled to be present at the hearing unless he has knowingly and voluntarily waived the right to be present or cannot be present because of physical or mental incapacity. Waiver or incapacity may not be presumed from nonappearance but shall be determined on the basis of factual information supplied to the court by counsel or a representative appointed by the court. The person alleged to be disabled is also entitled to present evidence and to cross-examine witnesses. The issue may be determined at a closed hearing without a jury if the person alleged to be disabled or his counsel so requests and all hearings herein shall be confidential and sealed unless otherwise ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction for good cause shown.

(f) The court shall hear and rule on a petition seeking appointment of a guardian of the person of a disabled person in connection with medical treatment on an expedited basis.

13-706.

(a) An adjudication of a disability for purposes of appointing a guardian of a person may not be the basis for commitment of the disabled person to a mental institution.

(b) Appointment of a guardian of the person:

(1) Is not evidence of incompetency of the disabled person; and

(2) Does not modify any civil right of the disabled person unless the court orders, including any civil service ranking, appointment, and rights relating to licensure, permit, privilege, or benefit under any law.

13-707.

(a) Persons are entitled to appointment as guardian of the person according to the following priorities:

(1) A person, agency, or corporation nominated by the disabled person if the disabled person was 16 years old or older when the disabled person signed the designation and, in the opinion of the court, the disabled person had sufficient mental capacity to make an intelligent choice at the time the disabled person executed the designation;

(2) A health care agent appointed by the disabled person in accordance with Title 5, Subtitle 6 of the Health – General Article;

- (3) The disabled person's spouse;
- (4) The disabled person's parents;
- (5) A person, agency, or corporation nominated by the will of a deceased parent;
- (6) The disabled person's children;
- (7) Adult persons who would be the disabled person's heirs if the disabled person were dead;
- (8) A person, agency, or corporation nominated by a person caring for the disabled person;
- (9) Any other person, agency, or corporation considered appropriate by the court; and

(10) For adults less than 65 years old, the director of the local department of social services or, for adults 65 years old or older, the Secretary of Aging or the director of the area agency on aging, except in those cases where the department of social services has been appointed guardian of the person prior to age 65. Upon appointment as guardian, directors of local departments of social services, directors of area agencies on aging, and the Secretary of Aging may delegate responsibilities of guardianship to staff persons whose names and positions have been registered with the court.

(b) A person specified in a priority in subsection (a)(2), (3), (5), or (6) may waive and nominate in writing a person, agency or corporation to serve in his stead. A nominee of a person holding priority has the same priority as the person making the nomination.

(c) (1) Among persons with equal priority the court shall select the one best qualified of those willing to serve. For good cause, the court may pass over a person with priority and appoint a person with a lower priority.

(2) If a guardian of the estate has been appointed, the court may select him to be guardian of the person, regardless of priority.

(d) Nonresidence does not disqualify any person from serving as guardian of the person. However, a nonresident who is appointed may not qualify until he has on file with the register or clerk an irrevocable designation by him of an appropriate person who resides in the State on whom service of process may be made in the same manner and with the same effect as if it were served personally in the State on the nonresident.

(e) A local department of social services, local office on aging, or the Secretary of Aging, may be appointed as a guardian of a person regardless of whether that person resides in a State or private residential facility.

13-708.

(a) (1) The court may grant to a guardian of a person only those powers necessary to provide for the demonstrated need of the disabled person.

(2) The court may appoint a guardian of the person of a disabled person for the limited purpose of making one or more decisions related to the health care of that person.

(b) Subject to subsection (a) of this section, the rights, duties, and powers which the court may order include, but are not limited to:

(1) The same rights, powers, and duties that a parent has with respect to an unemancipated minor child, except that the guardian is not liable solely by reason of the guardianship to third persons for any act of the disabled person;

(2) The right to custody of the disabled person and to establish his place of abode within and without the State, provided there is court authorization for any change in the classification of abode, except that no one may be committed to a mental facility without an involuntary commitment proceeding as provided by law;

(3) The duty to provide for care, comfort, and maintenance, including social, recreational, and friendship requirements, and, if appropriate, for training and education of the disabled person;

(4) The duty to take reasonable care of the clothing, furniture, vehicles, and other personal effects of the disabled person, and, if other property requires protection, the power to commence protective proceedings;

(5) If a guardian of the estate of the disabled person has not been appointed, the right to commence proceedings to compel performance by any person of his duty to support the disabled person, and to apply the estate to the support, care, and education of the disabled person, except that the guardian of the person may not obtain funds from the estate for room and board that the guardian, his spouse, parent, or child provide without a court order approving the charge, and the duty to exercise care to conserve any excess estate for the needs of the disabled person;

(6) If a guardian of the estate has been appointed, the duty to control the custody and care of the disabled person, to receive reasonable sums for room and board provided to the disabled person, and to account to the guardian of the estate for funds expended, and the right to ask the guardian of the estate to expend the estate in payment of third persons for care and maintenance of the disabled person;

(7) The duty to file an annual report with the court indicating the present place of residence and health status of the ward, the guardian's plan for preserving and maintaining the future well-being of the ward, and the need for continuance or cessation of the guardianship or for any alteration in the powers of the guardian. The court shall renew the appointment of the guardian if it is satisfied that the grounds for the original appointment stated in § 13-705(b) above continue to exist. If the court believes such grounds may not exist, it shall hold a hearing, similar to that provided for in § 13-705 above, at which the guardian shall be required to prove that such grounds exist. If the court does not make these findings, it shall order the discontinuance of the guardianship of the person. If the guardian declines to participate in the hearing, the court may appoint another guardian to replace him pursuant to the priorities in § 13-707(a); and

(8) The power to give necessary consent or approval for:

(i) Medical or other professional care, counsel, treatment, or service, including admission to a hospital or nursing home or transfer from one medical facility to another;

(ii) Withholding medical or other professional care, counsel, treatment, or service; and

(iii) Withdrawing medical or other professional care, counsel, treatment, or service.

(c) (1) Notwithstanding the powers conferred to a guardian under subsection (b)(8) of this section, and except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, where a medical procedure involves, or would involve, a substantial risk to the life of a disabled person, the court must authorize a guardian's consent or approval for:

(i) The medical procedure;

(ii) Withholding the medical procedure; or

(iii) Withdrawing the medical procedure that involves, or would involve, a substantial risk to the life of the disabled person.

(2) The court may, upon such conditions as the court considers appropriate, authorize a guardian to make a decision regarding medical procedures that involve a substantial risk to life without further court authorization, if:

(i) The disabled person has executed an advance directive in accordance with Title 5, Subtitle 6 of the Health – General Article that authorizes the guardian to consent to the provision, withholding or withdrawal of a medical

procedure that involves a substantial risk to life but does not appoint a health care agent; or

(ii) The guardian is:

1. Within a class of individuals specified in § 5–605(a)(2) of the Health – General Article as authorized to make health care decisions for the disabled person; and

2. Determined by the court to be familiar with the personal beliefs, values, and medical situation of the disabled person.

(3) A petition seeking the authorization of a court that a life–sustaining procedure be withheld or withdrawn is subject to the provisions of §§ 13–711 through 13–713 of this subtitle.

(d) (1) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, and in addition to the rights, duties, and powers which the court may order under subsection (b) of this section, the court may order the relief provided under this subsection.

(2) (i) If a guardian of the estate has been appointed, a guardian of the person may ask the guardian of the estate to expend the estate in payment of care and maintenance services provided directly to the disabled person by the guardian of the person at the rate of reimbursement established under this subsection.

(ii) The guardian of the person shall maintain appropriate records to document the care and maintenance services provided directly to the disabled person to receive any payment under this subsection.

(3) To implement the provisions of this subsection, the court may:

(i) Adopt guidelines for the rate of reimbursement for care and maintenance services provided directly by the guardian of the person to a disabled person;

(ii) Establish appropriate procedures for records, inspections, audits, or other requirements to monitor care and maintenance services provided directly by the guardian of the person for which the guardian of the person is reimbursed; and

(iii) Order any act necessary for the best interests of the disabled person.

13–709.

(a) When, from personal observation of a law enforcement officer, it appears probable that an adult will suffer immediate and serious physical injury or death if not immediately placed in a health care facility, that the adult is incapable of giving consent, and that it is not possible to follow the procedures of this section, the officer shall transport the person to an appropriate medical facility which shall immediately notify the next of kin and the director. This medical care may not be rendered in a State mental hospital other than, in an appropriate case, the Walter P. Carter Community Mental Health and Retardation Center and the Highland Health Facility unless authorized by the courts in a civil commitment proceeding. The director shall file a petition pursuant to subsection (b) of this section within 24 hours after the transfer of the person has taken place. The court shall hold a hearing on the petition and render its decision within 48 hours after the transfer has occurred.

(b) Upon petition by an interested person, a court may issue an order authorizing the provision of protective services on an emergency basis to an adult after finding on the record, based on clear and convincing evidence, that:

(1) For the purpose of this section the person lacks capacity under the standards enumerated in § 13–705(b) of this subtitle;

(2) An emergency exists, as defined in § 13–101 of this title; and

(3) No person authorized by law or court order to give consent for the person is available to consent to emergency services.

(c) In issuing an emergency order, the court shall adhere to the following limitations:

(1) Only such protective services as are necessary to remove the conditions creating the emergency shall be ordered; the court shall specifically designate the approved services in its order;

(2) Protective services authorized by an emergency order shall not include hospitalization or a change of residence unless the court specifically finds such action is necessary and gives specific approval for such action in its order;

(3) Protective services may be provided under an initial emergency order for not more than 144 hours, and the initial order may be renewed as provided in paragraph (5) of this subsection;

(4) In its order the court shall appoint the petitioner, another interested person, the director, or the Secretary of Aging as temporary guardian of the person with responsibility for the person's welfare and authority to give consent for the person for the approved protective services until the expiration of the order;

(5) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs (3) and (4) of this subsection, the court may extend the terms of the emergency order and the appointment of the temporary guardian until appointment of a guardian of the person pursuant to § 13–705 of this subtitle, upon petition of the temporary guardian, the director, or the Secretary of Aging, as appropriate, and after a showing that the conditions found to exist in subsection (b) of this section will probably continue beyond the expiration of the extended emergency order. Such petition shall be filed before the expiration of the six–day period provided for in paragraph (3) of this subsection and shall be accompanied by a petition for appointment of a guardian of the person pursuant to § 13–705 of this subtitle. Such petition for appointment of a guardian of the person shall be heard on an expedited basis no more than 60 days after the filing of the petition;

(6) The issuance of an emergency order and the appointment of a temporary guardian shall not deprive the person of any rights except to the extent provided for in the order or appointment; and

(7) To implement an emergency order, the court may authorize forcible entry of the premises of the person for the purpose of rendering protective services or transporting the person to another location for the provision of such services only after a showing to the court that attempts to gain voluntary access to the premises have failed and forcible entry is necessary. Persons making authorized forcible entry shall be accompanied by a law enforcement officer, the director or his representative, and if appropriate, a representative of the local department of health.

(d) The petition for an emergency order shall set forth the name, address, and interest of the petitioner; the name, age, and address of the person in need of protective services; the nature of the person's disability, if determinable; the proposed protective services; the petitioner's reasonable belief, together with facts supportive thereof, as to the existence of the facts stated in subsection (b)(1) through (3) of this section; and facts showing petitioner's attempts to obtain the person's consent to the services and the outcomes of such attempts.

(e) Notice of the filing of such petition shall be given as required in the Maryland Rules and to the director. Such notice shall be given in language reasonably understandable by the intended recipients at least 24 hours prior to the hearing for emergency intervention. The court may waive the 24–hour notice requirement upon a showing that (1) immediate and reasonably foreseeable physical harm to the person or others will result from the 24–hour delay, and (2) reasonable attempts have been made to give such notice. Notice of the court's final order shall be given to the same parties.

(f) (1) The hearing on a petition for an emergency order for protective services shall be held under the following conditions:

(i) The person shall be present unless he has knowingly and voluntarily waived the right to be present or cannot be present because of physical or mental incapacity. Waiver or incapacity may not be presumed from nonappearance but shall be determined on the basis of factual information supplied to the court by counsel or a representative appointed by the court.

(ii) The person has the right to counsel whether or not he is present at the hearing. Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, if the person is indigent or lacks the capacity to waive counsel, the court shall appoint counsel. Where the person is indigent, the State shall pay reasonable attorney's fees.

(iii) The person may present evidence and cross-examine witnesses. This hearing shall be held no earlier than 24 hours after the notice required in subsection (e) of this section has been given, unless such notice has been waived by the court.

(2) In any action in which payment for the services of a court-appointed attorney for the person is the responsibility of the local department of social services, unless the court finds that it would not be in the best interests of the person, the court shall:

(i) Appoint an attorney who has contracted with the Department of Human Resources to provide those services, in accordance with the terms of the contract; and

(ii) In an action in which an attorney has previously been appointed, strike the appearance of the attorney previously appointed and appoint the attorney who is currently under contract with the Department of Human Resources, in accordance with the terms of the contract.

(g) The court shall issue for the record a statement of its findings in support of any order for emergency protective services.

(h) The person, the temporary guardian, or any interested person may petition the court to have the emergency order set aside or modified at any time, notwithstanding any prior findings by the court that the person is disabled.

(i) Where protective services are rendered on the basis of an emergency order, the temporary guardian shall submit a report describing the circumstances including the name, place, date, and nature of the services, and the use of forcible entry, if any, to the court and the director. This report shall become part of the court record.

(j) The person or the guardian of the person may appeal any findings of a court under subsection (b) of this section. Such appeal shall be handled on an expedited basis by the appellate court.

13-710.

(a) Any person filing a petition, participating in the making of a good-faith report, or participating in an investigation or in a judicial proceeding resulting therefrom, pursuant to § 13-705 or § 13-709 of this article or Title 14, Subtitle 3 of the Family Law Article, shall have the immunity from civil liability or criminal penalty described under § 5-618(a) of the Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article.

(b) A law enforcement officer who transports an adult to an appropriate medical facility under § 13-709 of this article shall have the immunity from civil or criminal liability described under § 5-618(b) of the Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article.

13-711.

(a) In this Part III of this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(b) “Best interest” means that the benefits to the disabled person resulting from a treatment outweigh the burdens to the disabled person resulting from that treatment, taking into account:

(1) The effect of the treatment on the physical, emotional, and cognitive functions of the disabled person;

(2) The degree of physical pain or discomfort caused to the disabled person by the treatment, or the withholding or withdrawal of the treatment;

(3) The degree to which the disabled person’s medical condition, the treatment, or the withholding or withdrawal of treatment, result in a severe and continuing impairment of the dignity of the disabled person by subjecting the individual to a condition of extreme humiliation and dependency;

(4) The effect of the treatment on the life expectancy of the disabled person;

(5) The prognosis of the disabled person for recovery, with and without the treatment;

(6) The risks, side effects, and benefits of the treatment or the withholding or withdrawal of the treatment; and

(7) The religious beliefs and basic values of the disabled person receiving treatment, to the extent these may assist the decision maker in determining best interest.

(c) “Life–sustaining procedure” means any medical procedure, treatment, or intervention used to sustain, restore, supplement, or supplant a spontaneous vital function in order to prevent or postpone the death of a disabled person.

(d) “Substituted judgment” means a determination by a court that a disabled person would, if competent, make the same health care decision regarding a life–sustaining procedure taking into account any information that may be relevant to the decision, including:

(1) The current diagnosis, prognosis with and without the life–sustaining procedure, and life expectancy of the disabled person;

(2) Any expressed preferences of the disabled person regarding the provision of, or the withholding or withdrawal of, the life–sustaining procedure at issue;

(3) Any expressed preferences of the disabled person about the provision of, or the withholding or withdrawal of, life–sustaining procedures generally;

(4) Any religious or moral beliefs or personal values of the disabled person in relation to the provision of, or the withholding or withdrawal of, life–sustaining procedures;

(5) Any behavioral or other manifestations of the attitude of the disabled person toward the provision of, or the withholding or withdrawal of, the life–sustaining procedure;

(6) Any consistent pattern of conduct by the disabled person regarding prior decisions about health care;

(7) Any reactions of the disabled person to the provision of, or the withholding or withdrawal of, a comparable life–sustaining procedure for another individual; and

(8) Any expressed concerns of the disabled person about the effect on the family or intimate friends of the disabled person if a life–sustaining procedure were provided, withheld, or withdrawn.

13–712.

(a) The court may approve a request for the withholding or withdrawal of a life–sustaining procedure from a disabled person on the basis of a substituted judgment.

(b) The court may make a substituted judgment under subsection (a) of this section only on the basis of clear and convincing evidence that the disabled person would, if competent, decide to withhold or withdraw a life-sustaining procedure under the circumstances.

(c) Evidence of the intentions or wishes of the disabled person regarding the withholding or withdrawal of a life-sustaining procedure that might otherwise be inadmissible may be admitted, in the discretion of the court, if it is:

- (1) Material and probative; and
- (2) The best evidence available.

13-713.

(a) If the court is unable to make a substituted judgment under § 13-712 of this subtitle, the court may approve a request for the withholding or withdrawal of a life-sustaining procedure from the disabled person if the court determines, on the basis of clear and convincing evidence, that the withholding or withdrawal is in the best interest of the disabled person.

(b) The decision of whether life-sustaining procedures should be provided, withheld, or withdrawn shall not be based, in whole or in part, on either a patient's preexisting, long-term mental or physical disability, or a patient's economic disadvantage.

TITLE 13.5. MARYLAND UNIFORM ADULT GUARDIANSHIP AND PROTECTIVE PROCEEDINGS JURISDICTION ACT.

SUBTITLE 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

13.5-101.

(A) IN THIS TITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(B) "CONSERVATOR" MEANS A PERSON APPOINTED BY A COURT TO ADMINISTER THE PROPERTY OF AN ADULT, INCLUDING A PERSON APPOINTED AS GUARDIAN UNDER TITLE 13, SUBTITLE 2 OF THIS ARTICLE TO MANAGE THE PROPERTY OF A DISABLED PERSON.

(C) "EMERGENCY" MEANS A CIRCUMSTANCE THAT LIKELY WILL RESULT IN A SUBSTANTIAL HARM TO THE HEALTH, SAFETY, OR WELFARE OF A RESPONDENT, AND FOR WHICH THE APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN IS

NECESSARY BECAUSE NO OTHER PERSON HAS AUTHORITY AND IS WILLING TO ACT ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENT.

(D) “GUARDIAN” MEANS A PERSON APPOINTED BY A COURT TO MAKE DECISIONS REGARDING THE PERSON OF AN ADULT, INCLUDING A PERSON APPOINTED UNDER TITLE 13, SUBTITLE 7 OF THIS ARTICLE.

(E) “GUARDIANSHIP ORDER” MEANS AN ORDER APPOINTING A GUARDIAN.

(F) “GUARDIANSHIP PROCEEDING” MEANS A PROCEEDING IN WHICH AN ORDER FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN IS SOUGHT OR HAS BEEN ISSUED.

(G) “HOME STATE” MEANS THE STATE IN WHICH THE RESPONDENT WAS PHYSICALLY PRESENT FOR AT LEAST 6 CONSECUTIVE MONTHS, INCLUDING A PERIOD OF TEMPORARY ABSENCE, IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE FILING OF A PETITION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN OR PROTECTIVE ORDER.

(H) “INCAPACITATED PERSON” MEANS AN ADULT FOR WHOM A GUARDIAN HAS BEEN APPOINTED, INCLUDING A “DISABLED PERSON” AS DEFINED IN § 13-101 OF THIS ARTICLE.

(I) “PARTY” MEANS THE RESPONDENT, PETITIONER, GUARDIAN, CONSERVATOR, OR ANY OTHER PERSON ALLOWED BY THE COURT TO PARTICIPATE IN A GUARDIANSHIP OR PROTECTIVE PROCEEDING.

(J) “PROTECTED PERSON” MEANS AN ADULT FOR WHOM A PROTECTIVE ORDER HAS BEEN MADE.

(K) “PROTECTIVE ORDER” MEANS AN ORDER APPOINTING A CONSERVATOR OR A GUARDIAN OF THE PROPERTY IN ACCORDANCE WITH TITLE 13, SUBTITLE 2 OF THIS ARTICLE, OR ANOTHER COURT ORDER RELATED TO MANAGEMENT OF AN ADULT’S PROPERTY.

(L) “PROTECTIVE PROCEEDING” MEANS A JUDICIAL PROCEEDING IN WHICH A PROTECTIVE ORDER IS SOUGHT OR HAS BEEN ISSUED.

(M) “RECORD” MEANS INFORMATION THAT IS INSCRIBED ON A TANGIBLE MEDIUM OR THAT IS STORED IN AN ELECTRONIC OR OTHER MEDIUM AND IS RETRIEVABLE IN PERCEIVABLE FORM.

(N) “RESPONDENT” MEANS AN ADULT FOR WHOM A PROTECTIVE ORDER OR THE APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN IS SOUGHT.

(O) (1) “SIGNIFICANT-CONNECTION STATE” MEANS A STATE, OTHER THAN THE HOME STATE, WITH WHICH A RESPONDENT HAS A SIGNIFICANT CONNECTION OTHER THAN MERE PHYSICAL PRESENCE AND IN WHICH SUBSTANTIAL EVIDENCE CONCERNING THE RESPONDENT IS AVAILABLE.

(2) DETERMINATION OF WHETHER A RESPONDENT HAS A SIGNIFICANT CONNECTION WITH A PARTICULAR STATE SHALL INCLUDE CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING FACTORS:

(I) THE LOCATION OF THE FAMILY OF THE RESPONDENT AND OTHERS REQUIRED TO BE NOTIFIED OF THE GUARDIANSHIP OR PROTECTIVE PROCEEDING;

(II) THE LENGTH OF TIME THE RESPONDENT AT ANY TIME WAS PHYSICALLY PRESENT IN THE STATE AND THE DURATION OF ANY ABSENCES;

(III) THE LOCATION OF THE RESPONDENT’S PROPERTY; AND

(IV) THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE RESPONDENT HAS OTHER TIES TO THE STATE SUCH AS VOTING REGISTRATION, FILING OF STATE OR LOCAL TAX RETURNS, VEHICLE REGISTRATION, DRIVER’S LICENSE, SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS, AND RECEIPT OF SERVICES.

(P) “STATE” MEANS A STATE OF THE UNITED STATES, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, PUERTO RICO, THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS, A FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED INDIAN TRIBE, OR ANY TERRITORY OR INSULAR POSSESSION SUBJECT TO THE JURISDICTION OF THE UNITED STATES.

13.5-102.

(A) A SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, A COURT OF THIS STATE MAY TREAT A FOREIGN COUNTRY AS IF THE COUNTRY WERE A STATE FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPLYING SUBTITLES 1, 2, 3, AND 5 OF THIS TITLE.

(B) UNLESS A COURT OF THIS STATE FINDS BY A PREPONDERANCE OF THE EVIDENCE THAT A FOREIGN COUNTRY APPLIES AND FOLLOWS SUBSTANTIVE AND PROCEDURAL DUE PROCESS CONSISTENT WITH THE PRACTICES AND POLICIES OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, THE COURT:

(1) MAY NOT REQUEST A COURT IN THE FOREIGN COUNTRY TO ISSUE AN ORDER OR HOLD A HEARING;

(2) MAY NOT DECLINE TO EXERCISE JURISDICTION IF, BY DECLINING JURISDICTION IN THIS STATE, A COURT IN THE FOREIGN COUNTRY MAY OBTAIN JURISDICTION;

(3) MAY NOT DISMISS OR STAY A PROCEEDING IN THIS STATE REQUESTED OR ORDERED BY A COURT IN THE FOREIGN COUNTRY;

(4) MAY NOT DETERMINE THAT A COURT IN THE FOREIGN COUNTRY IS AN APPROPRIATE FORUM;

(5) MAY DECLINE TO COMPLY WITH NOTICE REQUIREMENTS OF THE FOREIGN COUNTRY OR THIS TITLE;

(6) MAY PROCEED WITH THE CASE IF THIS STATE IS OTHERWISE AN APPROPRIATE FORUM;

(7) MAY NOT ISSUE AN ORDER OR PROVISIONAL ORDER TO TRANSFER A GUARDIANSHIP OR CONSERVATORSHIP TO THE FOREIGN COUNTRY; AND

(8) MAY NOT RECOGNIZE UNDER ANY PROVISION OF LAW A GUARDIANSHIP OR CONSERVATORSHIP ORDER FROM THE FOREIGN COUNTRY.

13.5-103.

(A) (1) A COURT OF THIS STATE MAY COMMUNICATE WITH A COURT IN ANOTHER STATE CONCERNING A PROCEEDING ARISING UNDER THIS TITLE.

(2) THE COURT MAY ALLOW THE PARTIES TO PARTICIPATE IN A COMMUNICATION DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

(3) (I) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, THE COURT SHALL MAKE A RECORD OF THE COMMUNICATION.

(II) A RECORD DESCRIBED IN THIS PARAGRAPH MAY BE LIMITED TO THE FACT THAT THE COMMUNICATION OCCURRED.

(B) A COURT COMMUNICATING WITH A COURT IN ANOTHER STATE UNDER THIS SECTION MAY COMMUNICATE CONCERNING SCHEDULES,

CALENDARS, COURT RECORDS, AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS WITHOUT MAKING A RECORD.

13.5-104.

(A) IN A GUARDIANSHIP OR PROTECTIVE PROCEEDING IN THIS STATE, A COURT OF THIS STATE MAY REQUEST THE APPROPRIATE COURT OF ANOTHER STATE TO:

- (1) HOLD AN EVIDENTIARY HEARING;**
- (2) ORDER A PERSON IN THE OTHER STATE TO PRODUCE OR GIVE EVIDENCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROCEDURES OF THAT STATE;**
- (3) ORDER THAT AN EVALUATION OR ASSESSMENT BE MADE OF THE RESPONDENT, OR ORDER AN APPROPRIATE INVESTIGATION OF A PERSON INVOLVED IN A PROCEEDING;**
- (4) FORWARD TO THE COURT OF THIS STATE A CERTIFIED COPY OF THE TRANSCRIPT OR OTHER RECORD OF A HEARING UNDER ITEM (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION OR ANY OTHER PROCEEDING, EVIDENCE OTHERWISE PRESENTED UNDER ITEM (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, AND ANY EVALUATION OR ASSESSMENT PREPARED IN COMPLIANCE WITH A REQUEST UNDER ITEM (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION;**
- (5) ISSUE ANY OTHER ORDER NECESSARY TO ENSURE THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON NECESSARY TO MAKE A DETERMINATION, INCLUDING THE RESPONDENT OR THE INCAPACITATED OR PROTECTED PERSON; AND**
- (6) ISSUE AN ORDER AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF MEDICAL, FINANCIAL, CRIMINAL, OR OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION IN THE OTHER STATE, INCLUDING PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION AS DEFINED IN 45 C.F.R. § 164.504.**

(B) IF A COURT OF ANOTHER STATE IN WHICH A GUARDIANSHIP OR PROTECTIVE PROCEEDING IS PENDING REQUESTS ASSISTANCE OF THE KIND PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, A COURT OF THIS STATE HAS JURISDICTION FOR THE LIMITED PURPOSE OF GRANTING THE REQUEST OR MAKING REASONABLE EFFORTS TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUEST.

13.5-105.

(A) (1) IN A GUARDIANSHIP PROCEEDING OR PROTECTIVE PROCEEDING, IN ADDITION TO OTHER PROCEDURES THAT MAY BE AVAILABLE, TESTIMONY OF WITNESSES WHO ARE LOCATED IN ANOTHER STATE MAY BE OFFERED BY DEPOSITION OR OTHER MEANS ALLOWABLE IN THIS STATE FOR TESTIMONY TAKEN IN THE OTHER STATE.

(2) THE COURT ON ITS OWN MOTION MAY ORDER THAT THE TESTIMONY OF A WITNESS BE TAKEN IN ANOTHER STATE AND MAY PRESCRIBE THE MANNER IN WHICH AND THE TERMS ON WHICH THE TESTIMONY IS TO BE TAKEN.

(B) (1) IN A GUARDIANSHIP PROCEEDING OR PROTECTIVE PROCEEDING, A COURT IN THIS STATE MAY PERMIT A WITNESS LOCATED IN ANOTHER STATE TO BE DEPOSED OR TO TESTIFY BY TELEPHONE OR AUDIOVISUAL OR OTHER ELECTRONIC MEANS.

(2) A COURT OF THIS STATE SHALL COOPERATE WITH COURTS OF OTHER STATES IN DESIGNATING AN APPROPRIATE LOCATION FOR A DEPOSITION OR TESTIMONY IN A GUARDIANSHIP PROCEEDING OR PROTECTIVE PROCEEDING UNDER THIS SECTION.

SUBTITLE 2. JURISDICTION.

13.5-201.

A COURT OF THIS STATE HAS JURISDICTION TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN OR ISSUE A PROTECTIVE ORDER FOR A RESPONDENT IF:

(1) THIS STATE IS THE HOME STATE OF THE RESPONDENT;

(2) ON THE DATE THE PETITION IS FILED, THIS STATE IS A SIGNIFICANT-CONNECTION STATE AND:

(I) THE RESPONDENT DOES NOT HAVE A HOME STATE OR A COURT OF THE HOME STATE OF THE RESPONDENT HAS DECLINED TO EXERCISE JURISDICTION BECAUSE THIS STATE IS A MORE APPROPRIATE FORUM; OR

(II) THE RESPONDENT HAS A HOME STATE, A PETITION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN OR PROTECTIVE ORDER IS NOT PENDING IN A COURT OF THAT STATE OR ANOTHER SIGNIFICANT-CONNECTION STATE, AND, BEFORE THE COURT MAKES THE APPOINTMENT OR ISSUES THE ORDER:

1. A PETITION FOR AN APPOINTMENT OR ORDER IS NOT FILED IN THE HOME STATE OF THE RESPONDENT;

2. AN OBJECTION TO THE JURISDICTION OF THE COURT IS NOT FILED BY A PERSON REQUIRED TO BE NOTIFIED OF THE PROCEEDING; AND

3. THE COURT CONCLUDES THAT THE COURT IS AN APPROPRIATE FORUM UNDER THE FACTORS SET FORTH IN § 13.5-204 OF THIS SUBTITLE;

(3) (I) THIS STATE DOES NOT HAVE JURISDICTION UNDER ITEM (1) OR (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION; ~~OR~~ AND

(II) THE HOME STATE OF THE RESPONDENT AND ALL SIGNIFICANT-CONNECTION STATES HAVE DECLINED TO EXERCISE JURISDICTION BECAUSE:

1. THIS STATE IS THE MORE APPROPRIATE FORUM;
AND

2. JURISDICTION IN THIS STATE IS CONSISTENT WITH THE CONSTITUTIONS OF THIS STATE AND THE UNITED STATES; OR

(4) THE REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECIAL JURISDICTION UNDER § 13.5-202 OF THIS SUBTITLE ARE MET.

13.5-202.

(A) A COURT OF THIS STATE LACKING JURISDICTION UNDER § 13.5-201 OF THIS SUBTITLE HAS SPECIAL JURISDICTION TO DO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

(1) APPOINT A GUARDIAN IN AN EMERGENCY IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 13-709 OF THIS ARTICLE FOR A TERM NOT EXCEEDING 60 DAYS FOR A RESPONDENT WHO IS PHYSICALLY LOCATED IN THIS STATE;

(2) ISSUE A PROTECTIVE ORDER WITH RESPECT TO REAL OR TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN THIS STATE; AND

(3) APPOINT A GUARDIAN OR CONSERVATOR FOR AN INCAPACITATED OR PROTECTED PERSON FOR WHOM A PROVISIONAL ORDER TO TRANSFER THE PROCEEDING FROM ANOTHER STATE HAS BEEN ISSUED AS PROVIDED IN § 13.5-301 OF THIS TITLE.

(B) IF A PETITION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN IN AN EMERGENCY IS BROUGHT IN THIS STATE IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 13-709 OF THIS ARTICLE AND THIS STATE WAS NOT THE HOME STATE OF THE RESPONDENT ON THE DATE THE PETITION WAS FILED, THE COURT SHALL DISMISS THE PROCEEDING AT THE REQUEST OF THE COURT IN THE OTHER STATE, IF ANY, WHETHER DISMISSAL IS REQUESTED BEFORE OR AFTER THE EMERGENCY APPOINTMENT.

13.5-203.

EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN § 13.5-202 OF THIS SUBTITLE, A COURT THAT HAS APPOINTED A GUARDIAN OR ISSUED A PROTECTIVE ORDER CONSISTENT WITH THIS TITLE HAS EXCLUSIVE AND CONTINUING JURISDICTION OVER THE PROCEEDING UNTIL THE PROCEEDING IS TERMINATED BY THE COURT OR THE APPOINTMENT OR ORDER EXPIRES BY THE TERMS OF THE APPOINTMENT OR ORDER.

13.5-204.

(A) A COURT OF THIS STATE HAVING JURISDICTION UNDER § 13.5-201 OF THIS SUBTITLE TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN OR ISSUE A PROTECTIVE ORDER MAY DECLINE TO EXERCISE JURISDICTION IF THE COURT DETERMINES AT ANY TIME THAT A COURT OF ANOTHER STATE IS A MORE APPROPRIATE FORUM.

(B) (1) IF A COURT OF THIS STATE DECLINES JURISDICTION OVER A GUARDIANSHIP PROCEEDING OR PROTECTIVE PROCEEDING UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, THE COURT SHALL EITHER DISMISS THE PROCEEDING OR STAY THE PROCEEDING.

(2) A COURT UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION MAY IMPOSE ANY OTHER CONDITION THE COURT CONSIDERS JUST AND PROPER, INCLUDING THE CONDITION THAT A PETITION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN OR PROTECTIVE ORDER BE PROMPTLY FILED IN ANOTHER STATE.

(C) IN DETERMINING WHETHER THE COURT IS AN APPROPRIATE FORUM, A COURT SHALL CONSIDER ALL RELEVANT FACTORS, INCLUDING:

(1) AN EXPRESSED PREFERENCE OF THE RESPONDENT;

(2) WHETHER ABUSE, NEGLECT, OR EXPLOITATION OF THE RESPONDENT HAS OCCURRED OR IS LIKELY TO OCCUR AND WHICH STATE COULD BEST PROTECT THE RESPONDENT FROM THE ABUSE, NEGLECT, OR EXPLOITATION;

(3) THE LENGTH OF TIME THE RESPONDENT WAS PHYSICALLY LOCATED IN OR WAS A LEGAL RESIDENT OF THIS STATE OR ANOTHER STATE;

(4) THE DISTANCE OF THE RESPONDENT FROM THE COURT IN EACH STATE;

(5) THE FINANCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE ESTATE OF THE RESPONDENT;

(6) THE NATURE AND LOCATION OF THE EVIDENCE;

(7) THE ABILITY OF THE COURT IN EACH STATE TO DECIDE THE ISSUE EXPEDITIOUSLY AND THE PROCEDURES NECESSARY TO PRESENT EVIDENCE;

(8) THE FAMILIARITY OF THE COURT OF EACH STATE WITH THE FACTS AND ISSUES IN THE PROCEEDING; AND

(9) IF AN APPOINTMENT WERE MADE, THE ABILITY OF THE COURT TO MONITOR THE CONDUCT OF THE GUARDIAN OR CONSERVATOR.

13.5-205.

(A) IF AT ANY TIME A COURT OF THIS STATE DETERMINES THAT THE COURT ACQUIRED JURISDICTION TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN OR ISSUE A PROTECTIVE ORDER BECAUSE OF UNJUSTIFIABLE CONDUCT, THE COURT MAY:

(1) DECLINE TO EXERCISE JURISDICTION;

(2) EXERCISE JURISDICTION FOR THE LIMITED PURPOSE OF FASHIONING AN APPROPRIATE REMEDY TO ENSURE THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE OF THE RESPONDENT OR THE PROTECTION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE RESPONDENT OR PREVENT A REPETITION OF THE UNJUSTIFIABLE CONDUCT, INCLUDING STAYING THE PROCEEDING UNTIL A PETITION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN OR PROTECTIVE ORDER IS FILED IN A COURT OF ANOTHER STATE HAVING JURISDICTION; OR

(3) CONTINUE TO EXERCISE JURISDICTION AFTER CONSIDERING:

(1) THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE RESPONDENT AND ALL PERSONS REQUIRED TO BE NOTIFIED OF THE PROCEEDINGS HAVE ACQUIESCED IN THE EXERCISE OF THE JURISDICTION OF THE COURT;

(ii) WHETHER THE COURT IS A MORE APPROPRIATE FORUM THAN THE COURT OF ANY OTHER STATE UNDER THE FACTORS SET FORTH IN § 13.5–204(C) OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND

(iii) WHETHER THE COURT OF ANY OTHER STATE WOULD HAVE JURISDICTION UNDER FACTUAL CIRCUMSTANCES IN SUBSTANTIAL CONFORMITY WITH THE JURISDICTIONAL STANDARDS OF § 13.5–201 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(B) (1) IF A COURT OF THIS STATE DETERMINES THAT IT ACQUIRED JURISDICTION TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN OR ISSUE A PROTECTIVE ORDER BECAUSE A PARTY SEEKING TO INVOKE THE JURISDICTION OF THE COURT ENGAGED IN UNJUSTIFIABLE CONDUCT, THE COURT MAY ASSESS AGAINST THAT PARTY NECESSARY AND REASONABLE EXPENSES, INCLUDING ATTORNEY’S FEES, INVESTIGATIVE FEES, COURT COSTS, COMMUNICATION EXPENSES, WITNESS FEES AND EXPENSES, AND TRAVEL EXPENSES.

(2) THE COURT MAY NOT ASSESS FEES, COSTS, OR EXPENSES OF ANY KIND AGAINST THIS STATE OR A GOVERNMENTAL SUBDIVISION, AGENCY, OR INSTRUMENTALITY OF THIS STATE UNLESS AUTHORIZED BY LAW OTHER THAN THIS TITLE.

13.5–206.

(A) IF A PETITION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN OR ISSUANCE OF A PROTECTIVE ORDER IS BROUGHT IN THIS STATE AND THIS STATE IS NOT THE HOME STATE OF THE RESPONDENT ON THE DATE THE PETITION IS FILED, IN ADDITION TO COMPLYING WITH THE NOTICE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS STATE, NOTICE OF THE PETITION SHALL BE GIVEN BY THE PETITIONER TO THOSE PERSONS WHO WOULD BE ENTITLED TO NOTICE OF THE PETITION IF THE PROCEEDING WERE BROUGHT IN THE HOME STATE OF THE RESPONDENT.

(B) THE NOTICE DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE GIVEN IN THE SAME MANNER AS NOTICE IS GIVEN IN THIS STATE.

13.5–207.

EXCEPT FOR A PETITION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN IN AN EMERGENCY OR A PROTECTIVE ORDER LIMITED TO PROPERTY LOCATED IN THIS STATE AS PROVIDED IN § 13.5–202 OF THIS SUBTITLE, IF A PETITION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN OR PROTECTIVE ORDER IS FILED IN THIS

STATE AND ANOTHER STATE AND NEITHER PETITION HAS BEEN DISMISSED OR WITHDRAWN, THE FOLLOWING RULES APPLY:

(1) IF THE COURT IN THIS STATE HAS JURISDICTION UNDER § 13.5-201 OF THIS SUBTITLE, THE COURT MAY PROCEED WITH THE CASE UNLESS A COURT IN ANOTHER STATE ACQUIRES JURISDICTION UNDER § 13.5-201 OF THIS SUBTITLE BEFORE THE APPOINTMENT OR ISSUANCE OF THE ORDER; OR

(2) (I) IF THE COURT IN THIS STATE DOES NOT HAVE JURISDICTION UNDER § 13.5-201 OF THIS SUBTITLE, WHETHER AT THE TIME THE PETITION IS FILED OR AT ANY TIME BEFORE THE APPOINTMENT OR ISSUANCE OF THE ORDER, THE COURT SHALL STAY THE PROCEEDING AND COMMUNICATE WITH THE COURT IN THE OTHER STATE; AND

(II) IF THE COURT IN THE OTHER STATE DOES NOT DETERMINE THAT THE COURT IN THIS STATE IS A MORE APPROPRIATE FORUM, THE COURT IN THIS STATE SHALL DISMISS THE PETITION.

SUBTITLE 3. TRANSFER OF GUARDIANSHIP OR CONSERVATORSHIP TO ANOTHER STATE.

13.5-301.

(A) FOLLOWING THE APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN OR CONSERVATOR, THE GUARDIAN OR CONSERVATOR MAY PETITION THE COURT TO TRANSFER THE GUARDIANSHIP OR CONSERVATORSHIP TO ANOTHER STATE.

(B) NOTICE OF A PETITION TO TRANSFER A GUARDIANSHIP OR CONSERVATORSHIP UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE GIVEN BY THE PETITIONER TO THOSE PERSONS THAT WOULD BE ENTITLED TO NOTICE OF A PETITION IN THIS STATE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN OR CONSERVATOR.

(C) ON THE MOTION OF THE COURT OR ON REQUEST OF THE INCAPACITATED PERSON OR PROTECTED PERSON, OR ANOTHER INTERESTED PERSON, A COURT SHALL HOLD A HEARING ON A PETITION FILED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION.

(D) THE COURT SHALL ISSUE A PROVISIONAL ORDER GRANTING A PETITION TO TRANSFER A GUARDIANSHIP IF THE COURT FINDS THAT:

(1) THE INCAPACITATED PERSON IS PHYSICALLY LOCATED IN OR IS REASONABLY EXPECTED TO MOVE PERMANENTLY TO THE OTHER STATE;

(2) AN OBJECTION TO THE TRANSFER HAS NOT BEEN MADE OR, IF AN OBJECTION HAS BEEN MADE, THE OBJECTOR HAS NOT ESTABLISHED THAT THE TRANSFER WOULD BE CONTRARY TO THE INTERESTS OF THE INCAPACITATED PERSON;

(3) THE COURT IS SATISFIED THAT PLANS FOR CARE AND SERVICES FOR THE INCAPACITATED PERSON IN THE OTHER STATE ARE REASONABLE AND SUFFICIENT; AND

(4) THE COURT IS SATISFIED THAT THE GUARDIANSHIP WILL BE ACCEPTED BY THE COURT TO WHICH THE PROCEEDING WILL BE TRANSFERRED.

(E) THE COURT SHALL ISSUE A PROVISIONAL ORDER GRANTING A PETITION TO TRANSFER A CONSERVATORSHIP IF THE COURT FINDS THAT:

(1) THE PROTECTED PERSON IS PHYSICALLY LOCATED IN OR IS REASONABLY EXPECTED TO MOVE PERMANENTLY TO THE OTHER STATE, OR THE PROTECTED PERSON HAS A SIGNIFICANT CONNECTION TO THE OTHER STATE, CONSIDERING THE FACTORS SET FORTH IN § 13.5-101(O) OF THIS TITLE;

(2) AN OBJECTION TO THE TRANSFER HAS NOT BEEN MADE OR, IF AN OBJECTION HAS BEEN MADE, THE OBJECTOR HAS NOT ESTABLISHED THAT THE TRANSFER WOULD BE CONTRARY TO THE INTERESTS OF THE PROTECTED PERSON;

(3) THE COURT IS SATISFIED THAT ADEQUATE ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE FOR MANAGEMENT OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROTECTED PERSON; AND

(4) THE COURT IS SATISFIED THAT THE CONSERVATORSHIP WILL BE ACCEPTED BY THE COURT TO WHICH THE PROCEEDING WILL BE TRANSFERRED.

13.5-302.

(A) (1) ON ISSUANCE OF A PROVISIONAL ORDER IN ANOTHER STATE TO TRANSFER A GUARDIANSHIP OR CONSERVATORSHIP TO THIS STATE UNDER PROCEDURES SIMILAR TO THOSE IN § 13.5-301 OF THIS SUBTITLE, THE GUARDIAN OR CONSERVATOR SHALL PETITION THE COURT IN THIS STATE TO ACCEPT THE GUARDIANSHIP OR CONSERVATORSHIP.

(2) THE PETITION DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE A CERTIFIED COPY OF THE PROVISIONAL ORDER OF THE OTHER STATE.

(B) (1) NOTICE OF A PETITION UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION TO ACCEPT A GUARDIANSHIP OR CONSERVATORSHIP FROM ANOTHER STATE SHALL BE GIVEN BY THE PETITIONER TO THOSE PERSONS THAT WOULD BE ENTITLED TO NOTICE IF THE PETITION WERE A PETITION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN OR ISSUANCE OF A PROTECTIVE ORDER IN BOTH THE TRANSFERRING STATE AND THIS STATE.

(2) THE NOTICE DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE GIVEN IN THE SAME MANNER AS NOTICE IS GIVEN IN THIS STATE.

(C) ON THE MOTION OF THE COURT OR ON REQUEST OF THE INCAPACITATED PERSON OR PROTECTED PERSON, OR ANOTHER INTERESTED PERSON, A COURT SHALL HOLD A HEARING ON A PETITION FILED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION TO ACCEPT A GUARDIANSHIP OR CONSERVATORSHIP FROM ANOTHER STATE.

(D) THE COURT SHALL ISSUE A PROVISIONAL ORDER APPROVING A PETITION FILED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION UNLESS AN OBJECTION IS MADE AND THE OBJECTOR ESTABLISHES THAT TRANSFER OF THE PROCEEDING WOULD BE CONTRARY TO THE INTERESTS OF THE INCAPACITATED PERSON OR PROTECTED PERSON.

(E) IN APPROVING A PETITION UNDER THIS SECTION, THE COURT SHALL RECOGNIZE A GUARDIANSHIP OR CONSERVATORSHIP ORDER FROM THE OTHER STATE, INCLUDING THE DETERMINATION OF THE INCAPACITY OF THE INCAPACITATED PERSON OR PROTECTED PERSON AND THE APPOINTMENT OF THE GUARDIAN OR CONSERVATOR, IF THE GUARDIAN OR CONSERVATOR IS ELIGIBLE TO ACT IN THIS STATE.

(F) THE DENIAL OF A PETITION FILED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION TO ACCEPT A GUARDIANSHIP OR CONSERVATORSHIP FROM ANOTHER STATE DOES NOT AFFECT THE ABILITY OF A GUARDIAN OR CONSERVATOR APPOINTED BY A COURT IN ANOTHER STATE TO SEEK APPOINTMENT AS GUARDIAN OF THE PERSON OR PROPERTY OF THE DISABLED PERSON UNDER TITLE 13 OF THIS ARTICLE.

SUBTITLE 4. REGISTRATION AND RECOGNITION OF ORDERS FROM OTHER STATES.

13.5-401.

IF A GUARDIAN HAS NOT BEEN APPOINTED IN THIS STATE AND A PETITION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN IS NOT PENDING IN THIS STATE, A GUARDIAN APPOINTED IN ANOTHER STATE, AFTER GIVING NOTICE TO THE APPOINTING COURT OF AN INTENT TO REGISTER, MAY REGISTER THE GUARDIANSHIP ORDER IN THIS STATE BY FILING, AS A FOREIGN JUDGMENT IN A COURT IN ANY APPROPRIATE COUNTY OF THIS STATE, CERTIFIED COPIES OF THE ORDER AND LETTERS OF OFFICE.

13.5-402.

IF A CONSERVATOR HAS NOT BEEN APPOINTED IN THIS STATE AND A PETITION FOR A PROTECTIVE ORDER IS NOT PENDING IN THIS STATE, A CONSERVATOR APPOINTED IN ANOTHER STATE, AFTER GIVING NOTICE TO THE APPOINTING COURT OF AN INTENT TO REGISTER, MAY REGISTER THE PROTECTIVE ORDER IN THIS STATE BY FILING AS A FOREIGN JUDGMENT IN A COURT OF THIS STATE, IN ANY COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY BELONGING TO THE PROTECTED PERSON IS LOCATED, CERTIFIED COPIES OF THE ORDER, AND LETTERS OF OFFICE AND OF ANY BOND.

13.5-403.

(A) ON REGISTRATION OF A GUARDIANSHIP OR PROTECTIVE ORDER FROM ANOTHER STATE, THE GUARDIAN OR CONSERVATOR MAY EXERCISE IN THIS STATE ALL POWERS AUTHORIZED IN THE ORDER OF APPOINTMENT EXCEPT AS PROHIBITED UNDER THE LAWS OF THIS STATE, INCLUDING MAINTAINING ACTIONS AND PROCEEDINGS IN THIS STATE AND, IF THE GUARDIAN OR CONSERVATOR IS NOT A RESIDENT OF THIS STATE, SUBJECT TO ANY CONDITIONS IMPOSED ON NONRESIDENT PARTIES.

(B) A COURT OF THIS STATE MAY GRANT ANY RELIEF AVAILABLE UNDER THIS TITLE AND OTHER LAW OF THIS STATE TO ENFORCE A REGISTERED ORDER.

SUBTITLE 5. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.**13.5-501.**

IN APPLYING AND CONSTRUING THIS TITLE, WHICH IS A UNIFORM ACT, CONSIDERATION SHALL BE GIVEN TO THE NEED TO PROMOTE UNIFORMITY OF

THE LAW WITH RESPECT TO THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE LAW AMONG THE STATES THAT ENACT THE LAW.

13.5-502.

THIS TITLE MODIFIES, LIMITS, AND SUPERSEDES THE FEDERAL ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES IN GLOBAL AND NATIONAL COMMERCE ACT, 15 U.S.C. § 7001 ET SEQ., BUT DOES NOT MODIFY, LIMIT, OR SUPERSEDE § 101(C) OF THAT ACT, 15 U.S.C. § 7001, OR AUTHORIZE ELECTRONIC DELIVERY OF THE NOTICES DESCRIBED IN § 103(B) OF THAT ACT, 15 U.S.C. § 7003(B).

13.5-503.

THIS TITLE APPLIES TO GUARDIANSHIP AND PROTECTIVE PROCEEDINGS BEGINNING ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 1, 2010.

13.5-504.

THIS TITLE MAY BE CITED AS THE MARYLAND UNIFORM ADULT GUARDIANSHIP AND PROTECTIVE PROCEEDINGS JURISDICTION ACT.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2010.

Approved by the Governor, May 4, 2010.