

1                   **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2                               STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3                               1st Session of the 58th Legislature (2021)

4   ENGROSSED SENATE  
5   BILL NO. 198

                              By: Rosino of the Senate

  and

  Lawson of the House

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8  
9       An Act relating to the Oklahoma Guardianship and  
10      Conservatorship Act; amending 30 O.S. 2011, Sections  
11      1-111, as amended by Section 28, Chapter 475, O.S.L.  
12      2019 and 3-111 (30 O.S. Supp. 2020, Section 1-111),  
13      which relate to definitions and court order  
14      appointing guardian; modifying definitions; requiring  
15      court to make certain determinations; authorizing  
16      dismissal of action under certain circumstances;  
17      requiring court order to include specified finding;  
18      establishing requirements for certain guardianships;  
19      making language gender neutral; and providing an  
20      effective date.

21   BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

22       SECTION 1.        AMENDATORY        30 O.S. 2011, Section 1-111, as  
23      amended by Section 28, Chapter 475, O.S.L. 2019 (30 O.S. Supp. 2020,  
24      Section 1-111), is amended to read as follows:

          Section 1-111.   A.   As used in the Oklahoma Guardianship and  
Conservatorship Act:

          1.   "Abuse" means the intentional infliction of physical pain,  
injury, or mental anguish or the deprivation of food, clothing,

1 shelter, or medical care to an incapacitated person, partially  
2 incapacitated person, or a minor by a guardian or other person  
3 responsible for providing these services;

4 2. "Confidential information" means medical records, physical,  
5 psychological or other evaluations of a ward or subject of the  
6 proceeding, initial and subsequent guardianship plans, reports of  
7 guardians, limited guardians and conservators submitted to the court  
8 in connection with a proceeding pursuant to the provisions of the  
9 Oklahoma Guardianship and Conservatorship Act;

10 3. "Court" means a judge of the district court assigned to hear  
11 probate matters or assigned to the division of the district court  
12 designated to exercise probate jurisdiction;

13 4. "Estate" means the property of the person whose affairs are  
14 subject to a guardianship proceeding;

15 5. "Evaluation" means a professional assessment of:

- 16 a. the ability of an adult to receive and evaluate  
17 information effectively or communicate decisions,  
18 b. the impact of any impairment of these skills on the  
19 capacity of the individual to meet the essential  
20 requirements for ~~his~~ the individual's physical health  
21 or safety, or to manage ~~his~~ the individual's financial  
22 resources, and  
23 c. the services necessary to provide for the ward;  
24

1       6. "Exploitation" means an unjust or improper use of the  
2 resources of an incapacitated person, a partially incapacitated  
3 person~~7~~ or a minor for the profit or advantage, pecuniary or  
4 otherwise, of a person other than an incapacitated person, a  
5 partially incapacitated person~~7~~ or a minor through the use of undue  
6 influence, coercion, harassment, duress, deception, false  
7 representation~~7~~ or false pretense;

8       7. A "guardian of an incapacitated person" means a person who  
9 has been appointed by a court to serve as the guardian of an  
10 incapacitated person to assure that the essential requirements for  
11 the health and safety of the person are met, to manage the estate or  
12 financial resources of the person, or both;

13       8. "Guardian ad litem" means, with respect to a guardianship  
14 proceeding, a person appointed by the court to assist the subject of  
15 the proceeding in making decisions with regard to the guardianship  
16 proceeding, or to make the decisions when the subject of the  
17 proceeding is wholly incapable of making the decisions even with  
18 assistance;

19       9. "Guardianship plan" means the plan for the care and  
20 treatment of a ward, the plan for the management of the financial  
21 resources of a ward, or both;

22       10. "Guardianship proceeding" means a proceeding for the  
23 appointment of a guardian, or for other orders regarding the  
24

1 condition, care or treatment or for the management of the financial  
2 resources of a ward;

3 11. "Guardianship report" means any report required by the  
4 provisions of Sections 4-305 and 4-306 of this title;

5 12. "Incapacitated person" means a person eighteen (18) years  
6 of age or older:

7 a. who is impaired by reason of:

8 (1) mental illness as defined by Section 1-103 of  
9 Title 43A of the Oklahoma Statutes,

10 (2) intellectual or developmental disability as  
11 defined by Section 1430.2 of Title 10 of the  
12 Oklahoma Statutes,

13 (3) physical illness or disability,

14 (4) drug or alcohol dependency as defined by Section  
15 3-403 of Title 43A of the Oklahoma Statutes, or

16 (5) such other similar cause, and

17 b. whose ability to receive and evaluate information  
18 effectively or to make and to communicate responsible  
19 decisions is impaired to such an extent that the  
20 person:

21 (1) lacks the capacity to meet essential requirements  
22 for ~~his~~ physical health or safety, or

23 (2) is unable to manage ~~his~~ financial resources.  
24

1 Whenever in the Oklahoma Statutes the term "incompetent person"  
2 appears and refers to a person who has been found by a district  
3 court to be an incompetent person because of an impairment or  
4 condition described in this paragraph it shall have the same meaning  
5 as "incapacitated person" but shall not include a person who is a  
6 partially incapacitated person;

7 13. "Least restrictive ~~dispositional~~ alternative" means ~~the~~  
8 ~~form of assistance that least interferes with the legal ability of~~  
9 ~~an incapacitated or partially incapacitated person to act in his own~~  
10 ~~behalf~~ an approach to meeting the needs of an individual that  
11 restricts fewer rights of the individual than would the appointment  
12 of a guardian or conservator including, but not limited to,  
13 supported decision making, appropriate technological assistance,  
14 appointment of a representative payee and appointment of an agent by  
15 the individual including under a power of attorney for health care  
16 or finances;

17 14. "Intangible personal property" means cash, stocks and  
18 bonds, mutual funds, money market accounts, certificates of deposit,  
19 insurance contracts, commodity accounts, and other assets of a  
20 similar nature;

21 15. "Letters" means a document issued by the court subsequent  
22 to the appointment of a guardian which designates the name of the  
23 guardian and specifies the authority and powers of the guardian.  
24 Such document shall be endorsed thereon with the oath of the

1 guardian that he or she will perform the duties of his or her office  
2 as guardian according to law;

3 16. A "limited guardian" means a person appointed by the court  
4 to serve as the guardian of a partially incapacitated person and who  
5 is authorized by the court to exercise only:

6 a. some of the powers of a guardian of the person or  
7 whose power as guardian of the person extends only to  
8 certain matters pertaining to the care or control of  
9 the ward as specified by the court, or

10 b. certain powers as guardian of the property over the  
11 estate or financial resources of the ward, or whose  
12 powers as guardian of the property extend only to some  
13 portion of the estate or financial resources of the  
14 ward;

15 17. "Manage financial resources" or "manage the estate" means  
16 those actions necessary to obtain, administer, and dispose of real  
17 property, business property, benefits and income, and to otherwise  
18 manage personal financial or business affairs;

19 18. "Meet the essential requirements for physical health or  
20 safety" means those actions necessary to provide the health care,  
21 food, shelter, clothing, personal hygiene and other care without  
22 which serious physical injury is more likely than not to occur;

23 19. "Minor" means a person under eighteen (18) years of age;  
24

1        20. "Neglect" means the failure to provide protection for an  
2 incapacitated person, a partially incapacitated person~~7~~ or a minor  
3 who is unable to protect the person's own interest; or the failure  
4 to provide adequate shelter or clothing; or the harming or  
5 threatening with harm through action or inaction by either another  
6 individual or through the person's own action or inaction because of  
7 a lack of awareness, incompetence~~7~~ or incapacity, which has resulted  
8 or may result in physical or mental injury;

9        21. "Organization" means a corporation, trust, business trust,  
10 partnership, association~~7~~ or other legal entity;

11        22. "Partially incapacitated person" means an incapacitated  
12 person whose impairment is only to the extent that without the  
13 assistance of a limited guardian the person is unable to:

14            a. meet the essential requirements for ~~his~~ physical  
15 health or safety, or

16            b. manage all of ~~his~~ the person's financial resources or  
17 to engage in all of the activities necessary for the  
18 effective management of ~~his~~ the person's financial  
19 resources.

20 A finding that an individual is a partially incapacitated person  
21 shall not constitute a finding of legal incompetence. A partially  
22 incapacitated person shall be legally competent in all areas other  
23 than the area or areas specified by the court in its dispositional  
24 or subsequent orders. Such person shall retain all legal rights and

1 abilities other than those expressly limited or curtailed in the  
2 orders;

3 23. "Party" means the person or entity filing a petition,  
4 application, motion, acceptance of a testamentary nomination, or  
5 objection; the subject of a guardianship proceeding; and the  
6 guardian, the guardian ad litem and the conservator, if any such  
7 persons have been appointed;

8 24. "Person" means an individual;

9 25. "Property" means real property, personal property, income,  
10 any interest in such real or personal property and includes anything  
11 that may be the subject of ownership;

12 26. "Restrictions on the legal capacity of a person to act in  
13 ~~his~~ the person's own behalf" means powers of an incapacitated or  
14 partially incapacitated person which are assigned to a guardian;

15 27. "Subject of the proceeding" means a minor or an adult:

- 16 a. who is the subject of a petition requesting the  
17 appointment of a guardian, limited guardian or special  
18 guardian,  
19 b. for whom a guardian or limited guardian has been  
20 appointed by the court, or  
21 c. an adult for whom a conservator is requested or  
22 appointed; ~~and~~

23 28. "Supported decision making" means assistance from one or  
24 more persons chosen by an individual in understanding the nature and



1 consequences of potential personal and financial decisions to enable  
2 the individual to make such decisions, and in communicating such  
3 decisions if consistent with the wishes of the individual; and

4 29. "Surcharge" means the imposition of personal liability by a  
5 court on a guardian or limited guardian for willful or negligent  
6 misconduct in the administration of the estate or other financial  
7 resources of a ward.

8 B. 1. Nothing in this section shall be construed to mean an  
9 incapacitated person, a partially incapacitated person, or a minor  
10 is abused or neglected for the sole reason that a guardian or other  
11 person responsible, in good faith, selects and depends upon  
12 spiritual means alone through prayer, in accordance with the tenets  
13 and practices of a recognized church or religious denomination, for  
14 the treatment or cure of disease or remedial care of the person or  
15 minor in their trust, and, in the case of an adult, in accordance  
16 with the practices of or the express consent of the incapacitated or  
17 partially incapacitated person.

18 2. Nothing contained in this subsection shall prevent a court  
19 from immediately assuming custody of a minor, pursuant to the  
20 Oklahoma Children's Code, and ordering whatever action may be  
21 necessary, including medical treatment, to protect the minor's  
22 health or welfare.

23 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 30 O.S. 2011, Section 3-111, is  
24 amended to read as follows:

1 Section 3-111. A. At the hearing on the petition the court  
2 shall determine whether or not it is necessary to appoint a guardian  
3 of the person, property or both. If a guardian is needed, the court  
4 shall determine:

5 1. When a general or limited guardian of the person of the  
6 subject of the proceeding is requested, the essential requirements  
7 for the health and safety of the subject of the proceeding and the  
8 skills and knowledge necessary to meet those requirements;

9 2. When a general or limited guardian of the property of the  
10 subject of the proceeding is requested, the type and amount of the  
11 financial resources of the subject of the proceeding, the essential  
12 requirements for managing the financial resources, and the skills  
13 and knowledge necessary to manage the financial resources;

14 3. The nature and extent of the incapacity of the subject of  
15 the proceeding, if any; and

16 4. Whether by clear and convincing evidence the subject of the  
17 proceeding is an incapacitated or partially incapacitated person.

18 B. If after a full hearing and examination upon such petition,  
19 the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that the subject of  
20 the proceeding is an incapacitated or partially incapacitated  
21 person, the court shall ~~appoint a guardian or limited guardian and~~  
22 ~~shall issue an order appointing a guardian. The court shall explain~~  
23 ~~on the record the facts and reasons supporting the decision not to~~  
24 ~~impose any~~ determine the extent of the incapacity and the

feasibility of less restrictive alternatives to guardianship to meet the needs of the subject of the proceeding. Upon such determination, the court may:

1. Dismiss the action if the court finds that less restrictive alternatives to guardianship are feasible and adequate to meet the needs of the subject of the proceeding; or

2. Appoint a guardian or limited guardian. An order making such an appointment shall include a specific finding that it was established by clear and convincing evidence that the identified needs of the subject of the proceeding require a guardianship instead of less restrictive alternatives.

C. Guardianship for an incapacitated person shall be:

1. Used only as is necessary to promote and protect the well-being of the person and his or her property;

2. Designed to encourage the development of maximum self-reliance and independence of the person; and

3. Ordered only to the extent required by the actual mental, physical and adaptive limitations of the person.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2021.

COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY - CIVIL, dated 03/30/2021 - DO PASS.