

AN ACT concerning civil law.

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,
represented in the General Assembly:**

Section 5. The Probate Act of 1975 is amended by changing Sections 11-5, 11-5.4, 11-8, 11-8.1, 11-10.1, and 11-13 as follows:

(755 ILCS 5/11-5) (from Ch. 110 1/2, par. 11-5)

Sec. 11-5. Appointment of guardian.

(a) Upon the filing of a petition for the appointment of a guardian or on its own motion, the court may appoint a guardian of the estate or of both the person and estate, of a minor, or may appoint a guardian of the person only of a minor or minors, as the court finds to be in the best interest of the minor or minors.

(a-1) A parent, adoptive parent or adjudicated parent, whose parental rights have not been terminated, may designate in any writing, including a will, a person qualified to act under Section 11-3 to be appointed as guardian of the person or estate, or both, of an unmarried minor or of a child likely to be born. A parent, adoptive parent or adjudicated parent, whose parental rights have not been terminated, or a guardian or a standby guardian of an unmarried minor or of a child likely to be born may designate in any writing, including a will, a

person qualified to act under Section 11-3 to be appointed as successor guardian of the minor's person or estate, or both. The designation must be witnessed by 2 or more credible witnesses at least 18 years of age, neither of whom is the person designated as the guardian. The designation may be proved by any competent evidence. If the designation is executed and attested in the same manner as a will, it shall have prima facie validity. The designation of a guardian or successor guardian does not affect the rights of the other parent in the minor.

(b) The court lacks jurisdiction to proceed on a petition for the appointment of a guardian of a minor if it finds that (i) the minor has a living parent, adoptive parent or adjudicated parent, whose parental rights have not been terminated, whose whereabouts are known, and who is willing and able to make and carry out day-to-day child care decisions concerning the minor, unless: (1) the parent or parents voluntarily relinquished physical custody of the minor; (2) after receiving notice of the hearing under Section 11-10.1, the parent or parents fail to object to the appointment at the hearing on the petition; or (3) the parent or parents consent to the appointment as evidenced by a written document that has been notarized and dated, or by a personal appearance and consent in open court; or (ii) there is a guardian for the minor appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction. There shall be a rebuttable presumption that a parent of a minor is

willing and able to make and carry out day-to-day child care decisions concerning the minor, but the presumption may be rebutted by a preponderance of the evidence. If a short-term guardian has been appointed for the minor prior to the filing of the petition and the petitioner for guardianship is not the short-term guardian, there shall be a rebuttable presumption that it is in the best interest of the minor to remain in the care of the short-term guardian. The petitioner shall have the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that it is not in the child's best interest to remain with the short-term guardian.

(b-1) If the court finds the appointment of a guardian of the minor to be in the best interest of the minor, and if a standby guardian has previously been appointed for the minor under Section 11-5.3, the court shall appoint the standby guardian as the guardian of the person or estate, or both, of the minor unless the court finds, upon good cause shown, that the appointment would no longer be in the best interest of the minor.

(c) If the minor is 14 years of age or more, the minor may nominate the guardian of the minor's person and estate, subject to approval of the court. If the minor's nominee is not approved by the court or if, after notice to the minor, the minor fails to nominate a guardian of the minor's person or estate, the court may appoint the guardian without nomination.

(d) The court shall not appoint as guardian of the person

of the minor any person whom the court has determined had caused or substantially contributed to the minor becoming a neglected or abused minor as defined in the Juvenile Court Act of 1987, unless 2 years have elapsed since the last proven incident of abuse or neglect and the court determines that appointment of such person as guardian is in the best interests of the minor.

(e) Previous statements made by the minor relating to any allegations that the minor is an abused or neglected child within the meaning of the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act, or an abused or neglected minor within the meaning of the Juvenile Court Act of 1987, shall be admissible in evidence in a hearing concerning appointment of a guardian of the person or estate of the minor. No such statement, however, if uncorroborated and not subject to cross-examination, shall be sufficient in itself to support a finding of abuse or neglect. (Source: P.A. 96-1338, eff. 1-1-11.)

(755 ILCS 5/11-5.4)

Sec. 11-5.4. Short-term guardian.

(a) A parent, adoptive parent, or adjudicated parent whose parental rights have not been terminated, or the guardian of the person of a minor may appoint in writing, without court approval, a short-term guardian of an unmarried minor or a child likely to be born. The written instrument appointing a short-term guardian shall be dated and shall identify the

appointing parent or guardian, the minor, and the person appointed to be the short-term guardian. The written instrument shall be signed by, or at the direction of, the appointing parent in the presence of at least 2 credible witnesses at least 18 years of age, neither of whom is the person appointed as the short-term guardian. The person appointed as the short-term guardian shall also sign the written instrument, but need not sign at the same time as the appointing parent.

(b) A parent or guardian shall not appoint a short-term guardian of a minor if the minor has another living parent, adoptive parent or adjudicated parent, whose parental rights have not been terminated, whose whereabouts are known, and who is willing and able to make and carry out day-to-day child care decisions concerning the minor, unless the nonappointing parent consents to the appointment by signing the written instrument of appointment.

(c) The appointment of the short-term guardian is effective immediately upon the date the written instrument is executed, unless the written instrument provides for the appointment to become effective upon a later specified date or event. Except as provided in subsection (e-5) of this Section, the short-term guardian shall have authority to act as guardian of the minor as provided in Section 11-13.2 for a period of 365 days from the date the appointment is effective, unless the written instrument provides for the appointment to terminate upon an earlier specified date or event. Only one written instrument

appointing a short-term guardian may be in force at any given time.

(d) Every appointment of a short-term guardian may be amended or revoked by the appointing parent or by the appointing guardian of the person of the minor at any time and in any manner communicated to the short-term guardian or to any other person. Any person other than the short-term guardian to whom a revocation or amendment is communicated or delivered shall make all reasonable efforts to inform the short-term guardian of that fact as promptly as possible.

(e) The appointment of a short-term guardian or successor short-term guardian does not affect the rights of the other parent in the minor. The short-term guardian appointment does not constitute consent for court appointment of a guardian.

(e-5) Any time after the appointment of a temporary custodian under Section 2-10, 3-12, 4-9, 5-410, or 5-501 of the Juvenile Court Act of 1987, and after notice to all parties, including the short-term guardian, as required by the Juvenile Court Act of 1987, a court may vacate any short-term guardianship for the minor appointed under this Section, provided the vacation is consistent with the minor's best interests as determined using the factors listed in paragraph (4.05) of Section 1-3 of the Juvenile Court Act of 1987.

(f) The written instrument appointing a short-term guardian may, but need not, be in the following form:

APPOINTMENT OF SHORT-TERM GUARDIAN

[IT IS IMPORTANT TO READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS:

By properly completing this form, a parent or the guardian of the person of the child is appointing a guardian of a child of the parent (or a minor ward of the guardian, as the case may be) for a period of up to 365 days. A separate form should be completed for each child. The person appointed as the guardian must sign the form, but need not do so at the same time as the parent or parents or guardian.

This form may not be used to appoint a guardian if there is a guardian already appointed for the child, except that if a guardian of the person of the child has been appointed, that guardian may use this form to appoint a short-term guardian. Both living parents of a child may together appoint a guardian of the child, or the guardian of the person of the child may appoint a guardian of the child, for a period of up to 365 days through the use of this form. If the short-term guardian is appointed by both living parents of the child, the parents need not sign the form at the same time.]

1. Parent (or guardian) and Child. I, (insert name of appointing parent or guardian), currently residing at (insert address of appointing parent or guardian), am a parent (or the guardian of the person) of the following child (or of a child likely to be born): (insert name and date of birth of child, or insert the words "not yet born"

to appoint a short-term guardian for a child likely to be born and the child's expected date of birth).

2. Guardian. I hereby appoint the following person as the short-term guardian for the child: (insert name and address of appointed person).

3. Effective date. This appointment becomes effective: (check one if you wish it to be applicable)

On the date that I state in writing that I am no longer either willing or able to make and carry out day-to-day child care decisions concerning the child.

On the date that a physician familiar with my condition certifies in writing that I am no longer willing or able to make and carry out day-to-day child care decisions concerning the child.

On the date that I am admitted as an in-patient to a hospital or other health care institution.

On the following date: (insert date).

Other: (insert other).

[NOTE: If this item is not completed, the appointment is effective immediately upon the date the form is signed and dated below.]

4. Termination. This appointment shall terminate 365 days after the effective date, unless it terminates sooner as determined by the event or date I have indicated below: (check one if you wish it to be applicable)

On the date that I state in writing that I am

willing and able to make and carry out day-to-day child care decisions concerning the child.

() On the date that a physician familiar with my condition certifies in writing that I am willing and able to make and carry out day-to-day child care decisions concerning the child.

() On the date that I am discharged from the hospital or other health care institution where I was admitted as an in-patient, which established the effective date.

() On the date which is (state a number of days, but no more than 365 days) days after the effective date.

() Other: (insert other).

[NOTE: If this item is not completed, the appointment will be effective for a period of 365 days, beginning on the effective date.]

5. Date and signature of appointing parent or guardian.
This appointment is made this (insert day) day of (insert month and year).

Signed: (appointing parent)

6. Witnesses. I saw the parent (or the guardian of the person of the child) sign this instrument or I saw the parent (or the guardian of the person of the child) direct someone to sign this instrument for the parent (or the guardian). Then I signed this instrument as a witness in

the presence of the parent (or the guardian). I am not appointed in this instrument to act as the short-term guardian for the child. (Insert space for names, addresses, and signatures of 2 witnesses)

7. Acceptance of short-term guardian. I accept this appointment as short-term guardian on this (insert day) day of (insert month and year).

Signed: (short-term guardian)

8. Consent of child's other parent. I, (insert name of the child's other living parent), currently residing at (insert address of child's other living parent), hereby consent to this appointment on this (insert day) day of (insert month and year).

Signed: (consenting parent)

[NOTE: The signature of a consenting parent is not necessary if one of the following applies: (i) the child's other parent has died; or (ii) the whereabouts of the child's other parent are not known; or (iii) the child's other parent is not willing or able to make and carry out day-to-day child care decisions concerning the child; or (iv) the child's parents were never married and no court has issued an order establishing parentage.]

(Source: P.A. 98-568, eff. 1-1-14.)

(755 ILCS 5/11-8) (from Ch. 110 1/2, par. 11-8)
Sec. 11-8. Petition for guardian of minor.

(a) The petition for appointment of a guardian of the estate, or of both the person and estate, of a minor, or for appointment of the guardian of the person only of a minor or minors must state, if known: (1) the name, date of birth and residence of the minor; (2) the names and post office addresses of the nearest relatives of the minor in the following order: (i) the spouse, if any; if none, (ii) the parents, ~~and~~ adult brothers and sisters, and the short-term guardian, if any; if none, (iii) the nearest adult kindred; (3) the name and post office address of the person having the custody of the minor; (4) the approximate value of the personal estate; (5) the amount of the anticipated gross annual income and other receipts; (6) the name, post office address and, in case of an individual, the age and occupation of the proposed guardian; (7) the facts concerning the execution or admission to probate of the written designation of the guardian, if any, a copy of which shall be attached to or filed with the petition; and (8) the facts concerning any juvenile, adoption, parentage, dissolution, or guardianship court actions pending concerning the minor or the parents of the minor and whether any guardian is currently acting for the minor. In addition, if the petition seeks the appointment of a previously appointed standby guardian as guardian of the minor, the petition must also state: (9) the facts concerning the standby guardian's previous appointment and (10) the date of death of the minor's parent or parents or the facts concerning the consent of the minor's

parent or parents to the appointment of the standby guardian as guardian, or the willingness and ability of the minor's parent or parents to make and carry out day-to-day child care decisions concerning the minor.

If a short-term guardian who has been appointed by the minor's parent or guardian prior to the filing of the petition subsequently petitions for court-ordered guardianship of the minor, the petition shall state the facts concerning the appointment of the short-term guardian, including: (i) the date of the appointment; (ii) the circumstances surrounding the appointment; (iii) the date the short-term guardian appointment ends; and (iv) the reasons why a court-ordered guardian is also needed for the minor. A copy of the short-term guardianship appointment shall be attached to the petition.

(b) A single petition for appointment of only a guardian of the person of a minor may include more than one minor. The statements required in items (1) and (2) of subsection (a) shall be listed separately for each minor.

(Source: P.A. 90-796, eff. 12-15-98.)

(755 ILCS 5/11-8.1)

Sec. 11-8.1. Petition for standby guardian of minor. The petition for appointment of a standby guardian of the person or the estate, or both, of a minor must state, if known: (a) the name, date of birth, and residence of the minor; (b) the names and post office addresses of the nearest relatives of the minor

in the following order: (1) the parents, if any; ~~if none,~~ (2) the adult brothers and sisters, if any; if none, (3) the nearest adult kindred; (4) the short-term guardian, if any; (c) the name and post office address of the person having custody of the minor; (d) the name, post office address, and, in case of any individual, the age and occupation of the proposed standby guardian; (e) the facts concerning the consent of the minor's parent or parents or the guardian of the person of the minor to the appointment of the standby guardian, or the willingness and ability of the minor's parent or parents, if any, or the guardian of the person of the minor to make and carry out day-to-day child care decisions concerning the minor; (f) the facts concerning the execution or admission to probate of the written designation of the standby guardian, if any, a copy of which shall be attached to or filed with the petition; and (g) the facts concerning any juvenile, adoption, parentage, dissolution, or guardianship court actions pending concerning the minor or the parents of the minor and whether any guardian is currently acting for the minor. If a short-term guardian has been appointed by the minor's parent or guardian and subsequently petitions for standby guardianship of the minor, the petition shall state the facts concerning the appointment of the short-term guardian, including: (i) the date of the appointment; (ii) the circumstances surrounding the appointment; (iii) the date the short-term guardian appointment ends; and (iv) the reasons why a standby guardian

is also needed for the minor. A copy of the short-term guardianship appointment shall be attached to the petition.

(Source: P.A. 90-796, eff. 12-15-98.)

(755 ILCS 5/11-10.1) (from Ch. 110 1/2, par. 11-10.1)

Sec. 11-10.1. Procedure for appointment of a standby guardian or a guardian of a minor.

(a) Unless excused by the court for good cause shown, it is the duty of the petitioner to give notice of the time and place of the hearing on the petition, in person or by mail, to the minor, if the minor is 14 years, or older, and to the relatives and the short-term guardian of the minor whose names and addresses are stated in the petition, not less than 3 days before the hearing, but failure to give notice to any relative is not jurisdictional.

(b) In any proceeding for the appointment of a standby guardian or a guardian the court may appoint a guardian ad litem to represent the minor in the proceeding.

(Source: P.A. 88-529.)

(755 ILCS 5/11-13) (from Ch. 110 1/2, par. 11-13)

Sec. 11-13. Duties of guardian of a minor. Before a guardian of a minor may act, the guardian shall be appointed by the court of the proper county and, in the case of a guardian of the minor's estate, the guardian shall give the bond prescribed in Section 12-2. Except as provided in Section

11-13.1 and Section 11-13.2 with respect to the standby or short-term guardian of the person of a minor, the court shall have control over the person and estate of the ward. Under the direction of the court:

(a) The guardian of the person shall have the custody, nurture and tuition and shall provide education of the ward and of his children, but the ward's spouse may not be deprived of the custody and education of the spouse's children, without consent of the spouse, unless the court finds that the spouse is not a fit and competent person to have such custody and education. If the ward's estate is insufficient to provide for the ward's education and the guardian of his person fails to provide education, the court may award the custody of the ward to some other person for the purpose of providing education. If a person makes a settlement upon or provision for the support or education of a ward and if either parent of the ward is dead, the court may make such order for the visitation of the ward by the person making the settlement or provision as the court deems proper. The guardian of the minor shall inform the court of the minor's current address by certified mail, hand delivery, or other method in accordance with court rules within 30 days of any change of residence.

(b) The guardian or other representative of the ward's estate shall have the care, management and investment of the estate, shall manage the estate frugally and shall apply the income and principal of the estate so far as necessary for the

comfort and suitable support and education of the ward, his children, and persons related by blood or marriage who are dependent upon or entitled to support from him, or for any other purpose which the court deems to be for the best interests of the ward, and the court may approve the making on behalf of the ward of such agreements as the court determines to be for the ward's best interests. The representative may make disbursement of his ward's funds and estate directly to the ward or other distributee or in such other manner and in such amounts as the court directs. If the estate of a ward is derived in whole or in part from payments of compensation, adjusted compensation, pension, insurance or other similar benefits made directly to the estate by the Veterans Administration, notice of the application for leave to invest or expend the ward's funds or estate, together with a copy of the petition and proposed order, shall be given to the Veterans' Administration Regional Office in this State at least 7 days before the hearing on the application. The court, upon petition of a guardian of the estate of a minor, may permit the guardian to make a will or create a revocable or irrevocable trust for the minor that the court considers appropriate in light of changes in applicable tax laws that allow for minimization of State or federal income, estate, or inheritance taxes; however, the will or trust must make distributions only to the persons who would be entitled to distributions if the minor were to die intestate and the will or trust must make

distributions to those persons in the same amounts to which they would be entitled if the minor were to die intestate.

(c) Upon the direction of the court which issued his letters a representative may perform the contracts of his ward which were legally subsisting at the time of the commencement of the guardianship. The court may authorize the guardian to execute and deliver any bill of sale, deed or other instrument.

(d) The representative of the estate of a ward shall appear for and represent the ward in all legal proceedings unless another person is appointed for that purpose as representative or next friend. This does not impair the power of any court to appoint a representative or next friend to defend the interests of the ward in that court, or to appoint or allow any person as the next friend of a ward to commence, prosecute or defend any proceeding in his behalf. Any proceeding on behalf of a minor may be commenced and prosecuted by his next friend, without any previous authority or appointment by the court if the next friend enters bond for costs and files it in the court where the proceeding is pending. Without impairing the power of the court in any respect, if the representative of the estate of a minor and another person as next friend shall appear for and represent the minor in a legal proceeding in which the compensation of the attorney or attorneys representing the guardian and next friend is solely determined under a contingent fee arrangement, the guardian of the estate of the minor shall not participate in or have any duty to review the

prosecution of the action, to participate in or review the appropriateness of any settlement of the action, or to participate in or review any determination of the appropriateness of any fees awarded to the attorney or attorneys employed in the prosecution of the action.

(e) Upon petition by any interested person (including the standby or short-term guardian), with such notice to interested persons as the court directs and a finding by the court that it is in the best interest of the minor, the court may terminate or limit the authority of a standby or short-term guardian or may enter such other orders as the court deems necessary to provide for the best interest of the minor. The petition for termination or limitation of the authority of a standby or short-term guardian may, but need not, be combined with a petition to have a guardian appointed for the minor.

(f) The court may grant leave to the guardian of a minor child or children to remove such child or children from Illinois whenever such approval is in the best interests of such child or children. The guardian may not remove a minor from Illinois except as permitted under this Section and must seek leave of the court prior to removing a child for 30 days or more. The burden of proving that such removal is in the best interests of such child or children is on the guardian. When such removal is permitted, the court may require the guardian removing such child or children from Illinois to give reasonable security guaranteeing the return of such children.

The court shall consider the wishes of the minor's parent or parents and the effect of removal on visitation and the wishes of the minor if he or she is 14 years of age or older. The court may not consider the availability of electronic communication as a factor in support of the removal of a child by the guardian from Illinois. The guardianship order may incorporate language governing removal of the minor from the State.

Before a minor child is temporarily removed from Illinois for more than 48 hours but less than 30 days, the guardian shall inform the parent or parents of the address and telephone number where the child may be reached during the period of temporary removal and the date on which the child shall return to Illinois. The State of Illinois retains jurisdiction when the minor child is absent from the State pursuant to this subsection. The guardianship order may incorporate language governing out-of-state travel with the minor.

(Source: P.A. 90-345, eff. 8-8-97; 91-149, eff. 1-1-00.)