

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to guardianships; revising provisions governing the appointment, powers and duties of guardians; requiring certain guardians to undergo a background investigation at their own cost and expense; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law governs the appointment, powers and duties of guardians. (Chapter 159 of NRS) **Section 7** of this bill requires a private professional guardian to undergo a background investigation at his or her own cost and expense and to present the results of the background investigation to the court upon request. **Section 8** of this bill requires every guardian to file a verified acknowledgment of the duties and responsibilities of a guardian before performing any duties as a guardian. The acknowledgment must set forth certain provisions, including certain specific duties of the guardian. The court may exempt a public guardian or private professional guardian from filing an acknowledgment in each case and may instead require the guardian to file a general acknowledgment which covers all guardianships to which the guardian may be appointed. **Section 13** of this bill prohibits the removal of a guardian by the court if the sole reason for removal is the lack of money to pay the compensation and expenses of the guardian.

EXPLANATION – Matter in ***bolded italics*** is new; matter between brackets ***[omitted material]*** is material to be omitted.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Sections 1-6. (Deleted by amendment.)

Sec. 7. NRS 159.0595 is hereby amended to read as follows:

159.0595 1. A private professional guardian, if a person, must be qualified to serve as a guardian pursuant to NRS 159.059 and must be a certified guardian.

2. A private professional guardian, if an entity, must be qualified to serve as a guardian pursuant to NRS 159.059 and must have a certified guardian involved in the day-to-day operation or management of the entity.

3. ***A private professional guardian shall, at his or her own cost and expense:***

(a) Undergo a background investigation which requires the submission of a complete set of his or her fingerprints to the Central Repository for Nevada Records of Criminal History and to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for their respective reports; and

(b) Present the results of the background investigation to the court upon request.



4. As used in this section:

(a) "Certified guardian" means a person who is certified by the Center for Guardianship Certification or any successor organization.

(b) "Entity" includes, without limitation, a corporation, whether or not for profit, a limited-liability company and a partnership.

(c) "Person" means a natural person.

Sec. 8. NRS 159.073 is hereby amended to read as follows:

159.073 **1.** Every guardian, ~~shall,~~ before entering upon his or her duties as guardian and before letters of guardianship may issue ~~;~~

~~—1.1,~~ **shall:**

(a) Take and subscribe the official oath which must:

~~(a)~~ **(1)** Be endorsed on the letters of guardianship; and

~~(b)~~ **(2)** State that the guardian will well and faithfully perform the duties of guardian according to law.

~~(2.1)~~ **(b)** File in the proceeding the appropriate documents which include, without limitation, the full legal name of the guardian and the residence and post office addresses of the guardian.

(c) Except as otherwise required in subsection 2, make and file in the proceeding a verified acknowledgment of the duties and responsibilities of a guardian. The acknowledgement must set forth:

(1) A summary of the duties, functions and responsibilities of a guardian, including, without limitation, the duty to:

(I) Act in the best interest of the ward at all times.

(II) Provide the ward with medical, surgical, dental, psychiatric, psychological, hygienic or other care and treatment as needed, with adequate food and clothing and with safe and appropriate housing.

(III) Protect, preserve and manage the income, assets and estate of the ward and utilize the income, assets and estate of the ward solely for the benefit of the ward.

(IV) Maintain the assets of the ward in the name of the ward or the name of the guardianship. Except when the spouse of the ward is also his or her guardian, the assets of the ward must not be commingled with the assets of any third party.

(2) A summary of the statutes, regulations, rules and standards governing the duties of a guardian.

(3) A list of actions regarding the ward that require the prior approval of the court.

(4) A statement of the need for accurate recordkeeping and the filing of annual reports with the court regarding the finances and well-being of the ward.



2. The court may exempt a public guardian or private professional guardian from filing an acknowledgment in each case and, in lieu thereof, require the public guardian or private professional guardian to file a general acknowledgment covering all guardianships to which the guardian may be appointed by the court.

Secs. 9-11. (Deleted by amendment.)

Sec. 12. NRS 159.183 is hereby amended to read as follows:

159.183 1. Subject to the discretion and approval of the court and except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, a guardian must be allowed:

- (a) Reasonable compensation for the guardian's services;
- (b) Necessary and reasonable expenses incurred in exercising the authority and performing the duties of a guardian; and
- (c) Reasonable expenses incurred in retaining accountants, attorneys, appraisers or other professional services.

2. Reasonable compensation and services must be based upon similar services performed for persons who are not under a legal disability. In determining whether compensation is reasonable, the court may consider:

- (a) The nature of the guardianship;
- (b) The type, duration and complexity of the services required; and
- (c) Any other relevant factors.

3. In the absence of an order of the court pursuant to this chapter shifting the responsibility of the payment of compensation and expenses, the payment of compensation and expenses must be paid from the estate of the ward. In evaluating the ability of a ward to pay such compensation and expenses, the court may consider:

- (a) The nature, extent and liquidity of the ward's assets;
- (b) The disposable net income of the ward;
- (c) Any foreseeable expenses; and
- (d) Any other factors that are relevant to the duties of the guardian pursuant to NRS 159.079 or 159.083.

4. A private professional guardian is not allowed compensation or expenses for services incurred by the private professional guardian as a result of a petition to have him or her removed as guardian if the court removes the private professional guardian pursuant to the provisions of *paragraph (b), (d), (e), (f) or (h) of subsection ~~2, 4, 5, 6 or 8~~ 1* of NRS 159.185.

Sec. 13. NRS 159.185 is hereby amended to read as follows:

159.185 **1.** The court may remove a guardian if the court determines that:



~~14~~ (a) The guardian has become mentally incompetent, unsuitable or otherwise incapable of exercising the authority and performing the duties of a guardian as provided by law;

~~15~~ (b) The guardian is no longer qualified to act as a guardian pursuant to NRS 159.059;

~~16~~ (c) The guardian has filed for bankruptcy within the previous 5 years;

~~17~~ (d) The guardian of the estate has mismanaged the estate of the ward;

~~18~~ (e) The guardian has negligently failed to perform any duty as provided by law or by any order of the court and:

~~19~~ (1) The negligence resulted in injury to the ward or the estate of the ward; or

~~20~~ (2) There was a substantial likelihood that the negligence would result in injury to the ward or the estate of the ward;

~~21~~ (f) The guardian has intentionally failed to perform any duty as provided by law or by any lawful order of the court, regardless of injury;

~~22~~ (g) The best interests of the ward will be served by the appointment of another person as guardian; or

~~23~~ (h) The guardian is a private professional guardian who is no longer qualified as a private professional guardian pursuant to NRS 159.0595.

2. A guardian may not be removed if the sole reason for removal is the lack of money to pay the compensation and expenses of the guardian.

Secs. 14 and 15. (Deleted by amendment.)

