ARTICLE 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS, DEFINITIONS AND JURISDICTION

PART 1

SHORT TITLE, CONSTRUCTION AND GENERAL PROVISIONS

§1-101. Short title

This Title may be known and cited as "the Maine Uniform Probate Code." [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).

§1-102. Purposes; rule of construction

1. Liberal construction. This Code must be liberally construed and applied to promote its underlying purposes and policies.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

2. Purposes and policies. The underlying purposes and policies of this Code are to:

A. Simplify and clarify the law concerning the affairs of decedents, missing persons, protected persons, minors and incapacitated persons; [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

B. Discover and make effective the intent of a decedent in the distribution of the decedent's property; [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

C. Promote a speedy and efficient system for liquidating the estate of the decedent and making distribution to the decedent's successors; [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

D. Facilitate use and enforcement of certain trusts; and [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

E. Make uniform the law among the various jurisdictions. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).

§1-103. Supplementary general principles of law applicable

Unless displaced by the provisions of this Code, the principles of law and equity supplement its provisions. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).

§1-104. Construction against implied repeal

This Code is a general act intended to provide unified coverage of its subject matter and no part of it may be considered impliedly repealed by subsequent legislation if it can reasonably be avoided. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).

§1-105. Effect of fraud and evasion

Whenever fraud has been perpetrated in connection with any proceeding or in any statement filed under this Code or if fraud is used to avoid or circumvent the provisions or purposes of this Code, any person injured by the fraud may obtain appropriate relief against the perpetrator of the fraud or restitution from any person, other than a bona fide purchaser, benefiting from the fraud, whether innocent or not. A proceeding must be commenced within 2 years after the discovery of the fraud, but a proceeding may not be brought against a person who is not a perpetrator of the fraud later than 6 years after the time of commission of the fraud. This section has no bearing on remedies relating to fraud practiced on a decedent during the decedent's lifetime that affects the succession of the decedent's estate. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).

§1-106. Evidence as to death or status

In proceedings under this Code, the rules of evidence in courts of general jurisdiction, including any relating to simultaneous deaths, are applicable unless specifically displaced by the Code or by rules adopted under section 1-304. In addition, notwithstanding Title 22, section 2707, the following provisions relating to determination of death and status are applicable. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

1. Application of Uniform Determination of Death Act. Death occurs when an individual is determined to be dead under the Uniform Determination of Death Act.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

2. Death certificate as prima facie evidence. A certified or authenticated copy of a death certificate purporting to be issued by an official or agency of the place where the death purportedly occurred is prima facie evidence of the fact, place, date and time of death and the identity of the decedent.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

3. Government record as prima facie evidence. A certified or authenticated copy of any record or report of a governmental agency, domestic or foreign, asserting that a person is missing, detained, dead or alive is prima facie evidence of the status and of the dates, circumstances and places disclosed by the record or report.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

4. Absence of record; clear and convincing evidence required. In the absence of prima facie evidence of death under subsection 2 or 3, the fact of death may be established by clear and convincing evidence, including circumstantial evidence.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

5. Presumption of death after 5-year absence. An individual whose death is not established under subsections 1 to 4, who is absent for a continuous period of 5 years, during which the individual has not been heard from, and whose absence is not satisfactorily explained after diligent search or

inquiry is presumed to be dead. Death is presumed to have occurred at the end of the period unless there is sufficient evidence for determining that death occurred earlier.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

6. Document as evidence of time of death. In the absence of evidence disputing the time of death stated on a document described in subsection 2 or 3, a document described in subsection 2 or 3 that states a time of death 120 hours or more after the time of death of another individual, however the time of death of the other individual is determined, establishes by clear and convincing evidence that the individual survived the other individual by 120 hours.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).

§1-107. Acts by holder of general power

For the purpose of granting consent or approval with regard to the acts or accounts of a personal representative or trustee, including relief from liability or penalty for failure to post bond or to perform other duties, and for purposes of consenting to modification or termination of a trust or to deviation from its terms, the sole holder or all co-holders of a presently exercisable general power of appointment, including one in the form of a power of amendment or revocation, are deemed to act for beneficiaries to the extent their interests, as objects, takers in default or otherwise, are subject to the power. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).

§1-108. Cost-of-living adjustment of certain dollar amounts

1. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Consumer Price Index" means the Consumer Price Index, Annual Average, for All Urban Consumers, CPI-U: U.S. City Average, All items, reported by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, or its successor or, if the index is discontinued, an equivalent index reported by a federal authority or, if no such index is reported, "Consumer Price Index" means a comparable index chosen by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

B. "Reference base index" means the Consumer Price Index for calendar year 2017. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

2. Automatic adjustment of amounts for inflation. The dollar amounts stated in sections 2-102, 2-402, 2-403, 2-405 and 3-1201 apply to the estate of a decedent who died in or after 2017, but for the estate of a decedent who died after 2018, these dollar amounts must be increased or decreased if the Consumer Price Index for the calendar year immediately preceding the year of death exceeds or is less than the reference base index. The amount of any increase or decrease is computed by multiplying each dollar amount by the percentage by which the Consumer Price Index for the calendar year immediately preceding the year of death exceeds or is less than the reference base index. If any increase or decrease produced by the computation is not a multiple of $100, the increase or decrease is rounded down, if an increase, or up, if a decrease, to the next multiple of $100, but for the purpose of section 2-405, the periodic installment amount is the lump-sum amount divided by 12. If the Consumer Price Index for 2018 is changed by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, the

reference base index must be revised using the rebasing factor reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics or other comparable data if a rebasing factor is not reported.
[PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. A, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. A, §1 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).

§1-109. Transfer for value

Any recorded instrument described in this Code on which the register of deeds notes by an appropriate stamp "Maine Real Estate Transfer Tax Paid" is prima facie evidence that the transfer was made for value. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).

§1-110. Powers of fiduciaries relating to compliance with environmental laws

1. Fiduciary powers to comply with environmental law. From the inception of the trust or estate, a fiduciary has the following powers, without court authorization, which the fiduciary may use in the fiduciary's sole discretion to comply with environmental law:

A. To inspect and monitor property held by the fiduciary, including interests in sole proprietorships, partnerships or corporations and any assets owned by any such business enterprise, for the purpose of determining compliance with environmental law affecting the property and to respond to any actual or threatened violation of any environmental law affecting the property held by the fiduciary; [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

B. To take, on behalf of the trust or estate, any action necessary to prevent, abate or otherwise remedy any actual or threatened violation of any environmental law affecting property held by the fiduciary, either before or after the initiation of an enforcement action by any governmental body; [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

C. To refuse to accept property if the fiduciary determines that any property to be donated to the trust or estate either is contaminated by any hazardous substance or is being used or has been used for any activity directly or indirectly involving any hazardous substance that could result in liability to the trust or estate or otherwise impair the value of the assets held in the trust or estate. This paragraph does not apply to property in the trust or estate at its inception; [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

D. To settle or compromise at any time any claims against the trust or estate that may be asserted by any governmental body or private party involving the alleged violation of any environmental law affecting property held in trust or in an estate; [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

E. To disclaim any power granted by any document, statute or rule of law that, in the sole discretion of the fiduciary, may cause the fiduciary to incur personal liability under any environmental law; and [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

F. To decline to serve or to resign as a fiduciary if the fiduciary reasonably believes that there is or may be a conflict of interest between the fiduciary's fiduciary capacity and the fiduciary's individual capacity because of potential claims or liabilities that may be asserted against the fiduciary on behalf of the trust or estate because of the type or condition of assets held in the trust or estate. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

2. Definitions. For purposes of this section, "environmental law" means any federal, state or local law, rule, regulation or ordinance relating to protection of the environment or human health. For purposes of this section, "hazardous substance" has the meaning set forth in Title 38, section 1362, subsection 1.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

3. Costs assessed to trust or estate. The fiduciary may charge the cost of any inspection, review, abatement, response, cleanup or remedial action authorized in this section against the income or principal of the trust or estate. A fiduciary is not personally liable to any beneficiary or other party for any decrease in value of assets in trust or in an estate by reason of the fiduciary's compliance with any environmental law, specifically including any reporting requirement under the law. Neither the acceptance by the fiduciary of property nor a failure by the fiduciary to inspect property creates an inference as to whether there is or may be any liability under any environmental law with respect to the property.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

4. Compliance with environmental law not a conflict of interest. The exercise by a fiduciary of any of the powers granted in this section does not constitute a transaction that is affected by a substantial conflict of interest on the part of the fiduciary.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

5. Application and effective date. This section applies to all trusts and estates in existence on and created after September 1, 2019.
[PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §1 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).

§1-111. Guardian ad litem

1. Appointment order. In any proceeding under this Code for which the court may appoint a guardian ad litem for a child involved in the proceeding, at the time of the appointment, the court shall specify the guardian ad litem's length of appointment, duties and fee arrangements.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

2. Qualifications. A guardian ad litem appointed on or after October 1, 2005 must meet the qualifications established by the Supreme Judicial Court.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

3. Release of information and access to child. If, in order to perform the guardian ad litem's duties, the guardian ad litem needs information concerning the child or parents, the court may order the parents to sign an authorization form allowing the release of the necessary information. The guardian ad litem must be allowed access to the child by caretakers of the child, whether the caretakers are individuals, authorized agencies or child care providers.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

4. Best interest of the child. The guardian ad litem shall use the standard of the best interest of the child as set forth in Title 19-A, section 1653, subsection 3. The guardian ad litem shall make the wishes of the child known to the court if the child has expressed them, regardless of the recommendation of the guardian ad litem.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

5. Written report; admissibility. If required by the court, the guardian ad litem shall make a final written report to the parties and the court reasonably in advance of a hearing. The report is admissible as evidence and subject to cross-examination and rebuttal, whether or not objected to by a party.

[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

6. Quasi-judicial immunity. A person appointed by the court as a guardian ad litem acts as the court's agent and is entitled to quasi-judicial immunity for acts performed within the scope of the duties of the guardian ad litem.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

7. Notice of other proceedings. A guardian ad litem must be given notice of all civil or criminal hearings and proceedings, including, but not limited to, grand juries, in which the child is a party or a witness. The guardian ad litem shall protect the best interest of the child in those hearings and proceedings, unless otherwise ordered by the court.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).

PART 2

DEFINITIONS

§1-201. Definitions

As used in this Code, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

1. Agent. "Agent" includes an attorney-in-fact under a durable or nondurable power of attorney, an individual authorized to make decisions concerning another's health care and an individual authorized to make decisions for another under the Uniform Health Care Decisions Act.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

2. Application. "Application" means a written request to the register for an order of informal probate or appointment under Article 3, Part 3.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

3. Beneficiary. "Beneficiary," as it relates to a trust beneficiary, includes a person who has any present or future interest, vested or contingent, and also includes the owner of an interest by assignment or other transfer; as it relates to a charitable trust, includes any person entitled to enforce the trust; as it relates to a beneficiary of a beneficiary designation, refers to a beneficiary of an insurance or annuity policy, of an account with POD designation, of a security registered in beneficiary form, TOD, or of a pension, profit-sharing, retirement or similar benefit plan or other nonprobate transfer at death; and, as it relates to a beneficiary designated in a governing instrument, includes a grantee of a deed, a devisee, a trust beneficiary, a beneficiary of a beneficiary designation, a donee, appointee or taker in default of a power of appointment and a person in whose favor a power of attorney or a power held in any individual, fiduciary or representative capacity is exercised.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

4. Beneficiary designation. "Beneficiary designation" means a governing instrument naming a beneficiary of an insurance or annuity policy, of an account with POD designation, of a security registered in beneficiary form, TOD, or of a pension, profit-sharing, retirement or similar benefit plan or other nonprobate transfer at death.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

5. Child. "Child" includes any individual entitled to take as a child under this Code by intestate succession from the parent whose relationship is involved and excludes any person who has no other relationship to the parent than as a stepchild, a foster child, a grandchild or any more remote descendant.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

6. Claims. "Claims," in respect to estates of decedents and protected persons, includes liabilities of the decedent or protected person whether arising in contract, in tort or otherwise, and liabilities of the estate that arise at or after the death of the decedent or after the appointment of a conservator, including funeral expenses and expenses of administration. "Claims" does not include estate or inheritance taxes, or demands or disputes regarding title of a decedent or protected person to specific assets alleged to be included in the estate.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

7. Conservator. "Conservator" means a person who is appointed by a court to manage the estate of a protected person. "Conservator" includes a limited conservator.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

8. Court. "Court" means any one of the several courts of probate of this State established as provided in Title 4, sections 201 and 202.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

9. Descendant. "Descendant," as it relates to an individual, means all of the individual's descendants of all generations. The relationship of parent and child at each generation is determined by the definition of "parent" and "child" contained in this Code.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

10. Devise. "Devise" when used as a noun means a testamentary disposition of real or personal property and when used as a verb means to dispose of real or personal property by will.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

11. Devisee. "Devisee" means any person designated in a will to receive a devise. For the purposes of Article 3, in the case of a devise to an existing trust or trustee, or to a trustee or trust described by will, "devisee" includes the trust or trustee but not the beneficiaries.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

12. Disability. "Disability" means cause for a protective order as described by section 5-401.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

13. Distributee. "Distributee" means any person who has received property of a decedent from the personal representative other than as creditor or purchaser. A testamentary trustee is a distributee only to the extent of the distributed assets or increment of distributed assets remaining in the trustee's possession. A beneficiary of a testamentary trust to whom the trustee has distributed property received from a personal representative is a distributee of the personal representative. For purposes of this provision, "testamentary trustee" includes a trustee to whom assets are transferred by will, to the extent of the devised assets.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

14. Domestic partner. "Domestic partner" means one of 2 unmarried adults who are domiciled together under long-term arrangements that evidence a commitment to remain responsible indefinitely for each other's welfare.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

15. Estate. "Estate" includes the property of the decedent, trust or other person whose affairs are subject to this Code as originally constituted and as it exists from time to time during administration.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

16. Exempt property. "Exempt property" means that property of a decedent's estate that is described in section 2-403.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

17. Fiduciary. "Fiduciary" includes a personal representative, guardian, conservator and trustee.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

18. Foreign personal representative. "Foreign personal representative" means a personal representative appointed by another jurisdiction.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

19. Formal proceedings. "Formal proceedings" means proceedings within the exclusive jurisdiction of the court conducted before a judge with notice to interested persons.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

20. General personal representative. "General personal representative" means a personal representative other than a special administrator.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

21. Governing instrument. "Governing instrument" means a deed, will, trust or insurance or annuity policy; account with POD designation; security registered in beneficiary form, TOD; transfer on death deed, TOD; pension, profit-sharing, retirement or similar benefit plan; instrument creating or exercising a power of appointment or a power of attorney; or dispositive, appointive or nominative instrument of any similar type.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

22. Guardian. "Guardian" means a person who has qualified as a guardian of a minor or incapacitated person pursuant to appointment by a parent or spouse or by the court. "Guardian" includes a limited, an emergency and a temporary substitute guardian but not a guardian ad litem.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

23. Heirs. "Heirs," except as provided in section 2-711, means those persons, including the surviving spouse, who are entitled under the statutes of intestate succession to the property of a decedent.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

24. Incapacitated person. "Incapacitated person" means an individual who, for reasons other than being a minor, is unable to receive and evaluate information or make or communicate informed decisions to such an extent that the individual lacks the ability to meet essential requirements for physical health, safety or self-care, even with reasonably available appropriate technological assistance.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

25. Informal proceedings. "Informal proceedings" means proceedings conducted without notice to interested persons by an officer of the Court acting as a register for probate of a will or appointment of a personal representative.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

26. Interested person. "Interested person" includes heirs, devisees, children, spouses, domestic partners, creditors, beneficiaries and any others having a property right in or claim against a trust estate or the estate of a decedent, ward or protected person. "Interested person" also includes persons having priority for appointment as personal representative and other fiduciaries representing interested persons. In any proceeding or hearing under Article 5 affecting a trust estate or estate, when the ward or protected person has received benefits from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs within 3 years, "interested person" includes the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. The definition of "interested person" as it relates to particular persons may vary from time to time and must be determined according to the particular purposes of, and matter involved in, any proceeding.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

27. Issue. "Issue," as it relates to a person, means a descendant of that person.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

28. Joint tenants with the right of survivorship. "Joint tenants with the right of survivorship" includes co-owners of property held under circumstances that entitle one or more to the whole of the property on the death of the other or others, but excludes forms of co-ownership registration in which the underlying ownership of each party is in proportion to that party's contribution.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

29. Judge. "Judge" means the judge of a court.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

30. Lease. "Lease" includes an oil, gas or other mineral lease.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

31. Letters. "Letters" includes letters of authority, letters testamentary, letters of guardianship, letters of administration and letters of conservatorship.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

32. Minor. "Minor" means an unemancipated individual who has not attained 18 years of age.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

33. Mortgage. "Mortgage" means any conveyance, agreement or arrangement in which property is encumbered or used as security.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

34. Nonresident decedent. "Nonresident decedent" means a decedent who was domiciled in another jurisdiction at the time of death.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

35. Oath. "Oath" means an oath or affirmation.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

36. Organization. "Organization" includes a corporation, government or governmental subdivision or agency, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, joint venture, association or any other legal or commercial entity.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

37. Parent. "Parent" includes any person entitled to take, or who would be entitled to take if a child died without a will, as a parent under this Code by intestate succession from the child whose relationship is in question and excludes any person who has no other relationship to the child than as a stepparent, foster parent or grandparent.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

38. Payor. "Payor" means a trustee, insurer, business entity, employer, government, governmental agency or subdivision or any other person authorized or obligated by law or a governing instrument to make payments.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

39. Person. "Person" means an individual or an organization.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

40. Personal representative. "Personal representative" includes an executor, administrator, successor personal representative, special administrator and a person who performs substantially the same function under the appropriate governing law.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

41. Petition. "Petition" means a written request to the court for an order after notice.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

42. POD designation. "POD designation" has the same meaning as in section 6-201, subsection 8.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

43. Proceeding. "Proceeding" includes any civil action in any court of competent jurisdiction.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

44. Property. "Property" means anything that may be the subject of ownership and includes both real and personal property or any interest therein, including a digital asset as defined in section 10-102, subsection 9.
[PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. A, §2 (AMD).]

45. Protected person. "Protected person" means a minor or other individual for whom a conservator has been appointed or other protective order has been made.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

46. Protective proceeding. "Protective proceeding" means a proceeding under Article 5, Part 6.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

47. Record. "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.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

48. Register. "Register" means the official of the court elected or appointed as provided in section 1-501 or any other person performing the functions of register as provided in Part 5.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

49. Registered domestic partners. "Registered domestic partners" means domestic partners who are registered in accordance with Title 22, section 2710.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

50. Security. "Security" includes any note, stock, treasury stock, bond, debenture, evidence of indebtedness, certificate of interest or participation in an oil, gas or mining title or lease or in payments out of production under such a title or lease, collateral trust certificate, transferable share, voting trust certificate or, in general, any interest or instrument commonly known as a security, or any certificate of interest or participation, any temporary or interim certificate, receipt or certificate of deposit for, or any warrant or right to subscribe to or purchase, any such security.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

51. Settlement. "Settlement," in reference to a decedent's estate, includes the full process of administration, distribution and closing.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

52. Sign. "Sign" means with present intent to authenticate or adopt a record other than a will:

A. To execute or adopt a tangible symbol; or [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

B. To attach to or logically associate with the record an electronic symbol, sound or process. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

53. Special administrator. "Special administrator" means a personal representative as described by sections 3-614 to 3-618.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

54. Spouse. "Spouse" means an individual who is lawfully married and includes registered domestic partners and individuals who are in a legal union that was validly formed in any state or jurisdiction and that provides substantially the same rights, benefits and responsibilities as a marriage.

[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

55. State. "State" means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico or any territory or insular possession subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

56. Successor personal representative. "Successor personal representative" means a personal representative, other than a special administrator, who is appointed to succeed a previously appointed personal representative.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

57. Successors. "Successors" means those persons, other than creditors, who are entitled to property of a decedent under the decedent's will or this Code.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

58. Supervised administration. "Supervised administration" refers to the proceedings described in Article 3, Part 5.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

59. Survive. "Survive," as it relates to an individual, means to neither predecease an event, including the death of another individual, nor be deemed to have predeceased an event under section 2-104 or 2-702. "Survive" includes its derivatives, such as "survives," "survived," "survivor" and "surviving."
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

60. Testacy proceeding. "Testacy proceeding" means a proceeding to establish a will or determine intestacy.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

61. Testator. "Testator" means an individual of either sex who has executed a will.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

62. TOD designation. "TOD designation" means the designation of a security registered in beneficiary form to provide that the security be transferred on the death of the owner.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

63. Trust. "Trust" includes any express trust, private or charitable, with additions thereto, wherever and however created. "Trust" also includes a trust created or determined by judgment or decree under which the trust is to be administered in the manner of an express trust. "Trust" excludes other constructive trusts and excludes resulting trusts, conservatorships, personal representatives, trust accounts as defined in Article 6, custodial arrangements pursuant to the Maine Uniform Transfers to Minors Act, business trusts provided for certificates to be issued to beneficiaries, common trust funds, voting trusts, security arrangements, liquidation trusts and trusts for the primary purpose of paying debts, dividends, interest, salaries, wages, profits, pensions or employee benefits of any kind, and excludes any arrangement under which a person is nominee or escrowee for another person.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

64. Trustee. "Trustee" includes an original, additional or successor trustee, whether or not appointed or confirmed by a court.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

65. Ward. "Ward" means an individual for whom a guardian has been appointed.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

66. Will. "Will" includes a codicil and any testamentary instrument that only appoints an executor, revokes or revises another will, nominates a guardian or expressly excludes or limits the right of an individual or class to succeed to property of the decedent passing by intestate succession.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. A, §2 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).

PART 3

SCOPE, JURISDICTION AND COURTS

§1-301. Territorial application

Except as otherwise provided in this Code, this Code applies to the following: [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

1. Domiciled in the State. The affairs and estates of decedents, missing persons and persons to be protected who are domiciled in this State;
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

2. Nonresidents. The property of nonresidents located in this State or property coming into the control of a fiduciary who is subject to the laws of this State;
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

3. Persons without capacity. Incapacitated persons and minors in this State;
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

4. Survivorship. Survivorship and related accounts in this State; and
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

5. Trusts. Trusts subject to administration in this State.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).

§1-302. Subject matter jurisdiction

1. Subject matter jurisdiction. To the full extent permitted by the laws of the State, the court has jurisdiction over all subject matter relating to:

A. The estates of decedents, including the construction of wills and determination of heirs and successors of decedents, and estates of protected persons; [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

B. The protection of minors and incapacitated persons; and [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

C. Trusts. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

2. Court authority. The court has full power to make orders, judgments and decrees and take all other action necessary and proper to administer justice in the matters that come before it.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

3. Protective and guardianship proceedings. The court has jurisdiction over protective proceedings and guardianship proceedings.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

4. Consolidation. If both guardianship and protective proceedings as to the same person are commenced or pending in the same court, the proceedings may be consolidated.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).

§1-303. Venue; multiple proceedings; transfer

1. Court where proceeding first commenced. If a proceeding under this Code could be maintained in more than one court in this State, the court in which the proceeding is first commenced has the exclusive right to proceed.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

2. Multiple proceedings. If proceedings concerning the same estate, protected person, ward or trust are commenced in more than one court of this State, the court in which the proceeding was first commenced shall continue to hear the matter, and the other courts shall hold the matter in abeyance until the question of venue is decided. If the ruling court determines that venue is properly in another court, it shall transfer the proceeding to the other court.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

3. Transfer in the interest of justice. If a court finds that in the interest of justice a proceeding or a file should be located in another court of this State, the court making the finding may transfer the proceeding or file to the other court.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).

§1-304. Rule-making power

1. Rules. The Supreme Judicial Court may prescribe by general rules the forms, practice and procedure, including rules of evidence, to be followed in all proceedings under this Code and all appeals from such proceedings. The rules must be consistent with the provisions of this Code and may not abridge, enlarge or modify any substantive right.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

2. Laws inconsistent with rules. After the effective date of the rules adopted or amended under subsection 1, all laws in conflict with those rules are of no further force or effect, except that in the event of a conflict with a provision of this Code, the Code provision prevails.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).

§1-305. Records and certified copies; judicial supervision

The register shall maintain records and files and provide copies of documents as provided in sections 1-501 to 1-511 and further records and copies as the Supreme Judicial Court may by rule provide. The register is subject to the supervision and authority of the judge of the court in which the register serves. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).

§1-306. No jury trial; removal

1. No jury trial. In any proceeding under this Code, the court shall sit without a jury. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

2. Removal to Superior Court for jury trial. Upon timely demand by any party, any proceeding not within the exclusive jurisdiction of the court may be removed for trial to the Superior Court under the procedures the Supreme Judicial Court provides by rule. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).

§1-307. Register; powers

The register has the power to probate wills, appoint personal representatives as provided in sections 3-302 and 3-307 and perform other duties set out in this Code. The acts and orders that may be performed by the register under this Code may also be performed by a judge of the court or by a deputy register appointed under the provisions of section 1-506. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).

§1-308. Appeals

Appeals from all final judgments, orders and decrees of the court may be taken to the Supreme Judicial Court, sitting as the Law Court, as in other civil actions. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).

§1-309. Judges

A judge of the court must be chosen and shall serve as provided in Title 4, sections 301 to 312. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).

§1-310. Oath or affirmation on filed documents

Except as otherwise specifically provided in this Code or by rule, every document filed with the court under this Code, including applications, petitions and demands for notice, is deemed to include an oath, affirmation or statement to the effect that its representations are true as far as the person executing or filing it knows or is informed. Deliberate falsification may subject the person executing or filing the document to penalties for perjury. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).

PART 4

NOTICE, PARTIES AND REPRESENTATION IN ESTATE LITIGATION AND OTHER MATTERS

§1-401. Notice

Whenever notice of any proceeding or any hearing is required under this Code, it must be given to any interested person in the manner the Supreme Judicial Court provides by rule. Each notice must include notification of any right to contest or appeal and may be proved by the filing of an affidavit of notice. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).

§1-402. Notice; waiver

A person, including a guardian ad litem, conservator or other fiduciary, may waive notice in the manner the Supreme Judicial Court provides by rule. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).

§1-403. Pleadings; when parties bound by others; notice

In formal proceedings involving trusts or estates of decedents, minors, protected persons or incapacitated persons, and in judicially supervised settlements, the following provisions apply. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

1. Pleadings. Interests to be affected must be described in pleadings that give reasonable information to owners by name or class, by reference to the instrument creating the interests or in some other appropriate manner.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

2. Orders binding another person. A person is bound by an order binding another person in the following cases.

A. An order binding the sole holder or all coholders of a power of revocation or a presently exercisable general power of appointment, including one in the form of a power of amendment, binds other persons to the extent their interests, as objects or takers in default or otherwise, are subject to the power. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

B. To the extent there is no conflict of interest between them or among persons represented:

(1) An order binding a conservator binds the person whose estate the conservator controls;

(2) An order binding a guardian binds the ward if no conservator of the ward's estate has been appointed;

(3) An order binding a trustee binds beneficiaries of the trust in proceedings to probate a will establishing or adding to a trust, in proceedings to review the acts or accounts of a prior fiduciary and in proceedings involving creditors or other 3rd parties;

(4) An order binding a personal representative binds persons interested in the undistributed assets of a decedent's estate in actions or proceedings by or against the estate; and

(5) An order binding a sole holder or all coholders of a general testamentary power of appointment binds other persons to the extent their interests, as objects or takers in default or otherwise, are subject to the power. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

C. Unless otherwise represented, a minor, an incapacitated person or an unborn or unascertained person is bound by an order to the extent the person's interest is adequately represented by another party having a substantially identical interest in the proceeding. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

3. Representation of minors. If a conservator or guardian has not been appointed, a parent may represent a minor.

[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

4. Notice. Notice is required as follows:

A. Notice as prescribed by section 1-401 must be given to every interested person or to a person who may bind an interested person as described in subsection 2, paragraph A or B. Notice may be given both to a person and to another person who may bind the person; and [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

B. Notice must be given to unborn or unascertained persons who are not represented under subsection 2, paragraph A or B by giving notice to all known persons whose interests in the proceedings are substantially identical to those of the unborn or unascertained persons. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

5. Appointment of guardian ad litem. At any point in a proceeding, a court may appoint a guardian ad litem to represent the interest of a minor, an incapacitated person or an unborn or unascertained person if the court determines that representation of the interest otherwise would be inadequate. If not precluded by a conflict of interest, a guardian ad litem may be appointed to represent several persons or interests. The court shall set out its reasons for appointing a guardian ad litem as a part of the record or the proceeding.

[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).

PART 5

REGISTERS OF PROBATE

§1-501. Election; bond; vacancies; salaries; copies

1. Election. Registers of probate are elected or appointed as provided in the Constitution of Maine. A register's election is effected and determined as is provided for county commissioners by Title 30-A, chapter 1, subchapter 2, and a register's term commences on the first day of January following the register's election, except that the term of a register appointed to fill a vacancy commences immediately.

[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

2. Bond. A register, before acting, shall give bond to the treasurer of the register's county with sufficient sureties in the sum of $2,500, except that this sum must be $10,000 for Cumberland County. A register, having executed the bond, shall file the bond in the office of the county commissioners of the register's county, to be presented to the county commissioners at the next meeting for approval. After the bond is approved, the county commissioners shall retain a copy of the bond and deliver the original bond to the register, who shall deliver the original bond to the treasurer of the county within 10 days after the bond's approval. Surety and fidelity insurance coverage provided by a public sector self-funded risk pool organized pursuant to Title 30-A, section 2253 in the sum ordered by the commissioners is deemed to comply with the requirements of this section.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

3. Vacancies. Vacancies caused by death, resignation, removal from the county, permanent incapacity as defined in Title 30-A, section 1, subsection 2-A or any other reason must be filled as provided in the Constitution of Maine. In the case of a vacancy in the term of a register who was nominated by primary election before the general election, the register appointed by the Governor to fill the vacancy until a successor is chosen at election must be enrolled in the same political party as the register whose term is vacant. In making the appointment, the Governor shall choose from any recommendations submitted to the Governor by the county committee of the political party from which the appointment is to be made.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

4. Salary. A register is entitled to receive an annual salary as established by the register's county pursuant to Title 30-A, chapter 3. The salary of the register must be in full compensation for the performance of all duties required of the register.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

5. Copies and fees. Registers may make copies of wills, accounts, inventories, petitions and decrees and furnish the copies to the persons requesting the copies and may charge a reasonable fee for that service, which is considered a fee for the use of the county. Fees for exemplified copies of the records of the probate of wills and the granting of administrations, guardianships and conservatorships; fees for copies of petitions and orders of notice for personal service; fees for appeal copies; and the statutory fees for abstracts and copies of the waivers of wills and other copies required to be recorded in the registry of deeds are considered official fees for the use of the county. This subsection may not be construed to change or repeal any provisions of law requiring the furnishing of certain copies without charge.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).

§1-502. Condition of bond

A register's bond is conditioned on the register's accounting, according to law, for all fees received by or payable to the register by virtue of the office and the register's paying the fees to the county treasurer by the 15th day of each month following the month in which the fees were collected, as provided by law; the register's keeping, seasonably and in good order, the records of the court; the register's making and keeping correct and convenient indices of the records; and the register's faithfully discharging all other duties of the office. If a register forfeits the register's bond, the register is disqualified from holding office. The register's failure to complete the register's records for more than 6 months at any time, except in cases of sickness or extraordinary casualty, constitutes a forfeiture. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).

§1-503. Duties; records; binding of papers; facsimile signature

1. Duties. Registers are responsible for the care and custody of all files, papers and books belonging to the probate office and shall duly record all wills probated formally or informally, letters of authority of a personal representative, guardianships or conservatorships issued, bonds approved, accounts filed or allowed, all informal applications and findings, all petitions, decrees, orders or judgments of the judge, including all petitions, decrees or orders relating to adoptions and changes of names and other matters, as the judge directs.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

2. Records. Registers shall keep a docket of all probate cases and, under the appropriate heading of each case, make entries of each motion, order, decree and proceeding so that at all times the docket shows the exact condition of each case. A register may act as an auditor of accounts when requested to do so by the judge, and the judge's decision is final unless appealed in the same manner as other probate appeals. The records may be attested by the volume, and it is considered to be a sufficient attestation of those records when each volume bears the attest with the written signature of the register or other person authorized by law to attest those records.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

3. Binding of papers. A register may bind in volumes of convenient size original inventories and accounts filed in the register's office and, when bound and indexed, those inventories and accounts are deemed to be recorded in all cases in which the law requires a record to be made and no further record is required.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

4. Facsimile signature. A facsimile of the signature of the register or deputy register imprinted at the register's or deputy register's direction upon any instrument, certification or copy that is customarily certified by the register or deputy register or recorded in the probate office has the same validity as the register's or deputy register's signature.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).

§1-504. Certification of wills; appointments of personal representatives; elective share petitions involving real estate

1. Duty of register. The register shall prepare and submit a certification in accordance with subsection 2 within 30 days after the date on which:

A. A will has been proved or allowed; [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

B. An appointment of a personal representative has been made upon an assumption of intestate status and the petition for appointment indicates that the decedent owned real estate; or [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

C. A petition for an elective share has been filed and the will or the petition upon which the appointment of a personal representative was granted indicates that the decedent owned real estate. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

2. Certification. When required by subsection 1, the register shall certify to the register of deeds in the county where any affected real estate is situated a true copy of the portion of the will that devises

the real estate, an abstract of the appointment of the personal representative or a true copy or abstract of the petition for an elective share. Each certification must also include:

A. A description of the real estate derived from the probated will or the petition upon which the appointment of the personal representative was made; [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

B. The name of the decedent; [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

C. The name or names of the devisees or heirs; and [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

D. In the case of a will, the date of allowance of the will and an indication whether the will was probated formally or informally. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

3. Additional certification if will previously probated informally. If a will was informally probated and subsequently formally probated or denied probate in formal proceedings, the register shall certify the formal probate or formal denial of probate to the register of deeds to which the prior informally probated will was certified, setting forth the date of the formal probate or denial. A register of deeds that receives a certification pursuant to this subsection shall indicate on the certification the time of receipt and record the certification in the same manner as a deed of real estate.

[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).

§1-505. Notice to beneficiaries; furnishing of copies

A register shall, within 30 days after a will is probated, notify by mail all beneficiaries under the will that devises have been made to them, stating the name of the testator and the name of the personal representative, if a personal representative has been appointed at the time this notification is sent. Beneficiaries in a will may, upon application to the register, be furnished with a copy of the probated will upon payment of a fee of $1 per page. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).

§1-506. Deputy register of probate

A register may appoint a deputy register for the county, subject to the requirements of Title 30-A, section 501. The deputy register may perform any of the duties prescribed by law to be performed by the register. The signature of the deputy register has the same force and effect as the signature of the register. The deputy register shall give bond to the county for the faithful discharge of the deputy register's duties in the same sum and in the same manner as the register. The deputy register shall act as register in the event of a vacancy or absence of the register, until the register resumes the register's duties or another person is qualified as register. The deputy register is entitled to receive an annual salary established by the register and approved by the county commissioners. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

In the case of an absence of the register in a county where a deputy register has not been appointed or in the case of a vacancy in the office of register due to death, resignation or any other cause, the

judge shall appoint a suitable person to act as register pro tempore until the register resumes the duties of office or another person is qualified as register. A register pro tempore must be sworn and, if the judge requires it, shall give bond as in the case of the register. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).

§1-507. Inspection of register's conduct of office

A judge shall constantly inspect the conduct of the register with respect to the register's records and duties and give information in writing of any breach of the register's bond to the treasurer of the county, who shall bring a civil action. Any funds recovered in the civil action must be applied toward the expenses of completing the records of the register under the direction of the judge and the surplus, if any, must inure to the county. If the funds are insufficient, the treasurer may recover the deficiency from the register in a civil action. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).

§1-508. Register incapable or neglects duties

When a register is unable to perform or neglects the duties of the office, the judge shall certify the register's inability or neglect to the county treasurer, the time of the commencement and termination of the inability or neglect and the name of the person who has performed the duties for that time period. The treasurer shall pay the person named by the judge a salary in proportion to the time that the person has performed the duties of the register and the amount must be deducted from the register's salary. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).

§1-509. Records in case of vacancy

When there is a vacancy in the office of register and the office's records are incomplete, the records may be completed and certified by the person appointed to act as register or by the register's successor. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).

§1-510. Register or court employee; prohibited activities

1. Prohibited activities. A register may not:

A. Be an attorney or counselor in or out of court in an action or matter pending in the court of which the register is register or in an appeal in such action or matter; [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

B. Be an administrator, guardian, commissioner of insolvency, appraiser or divider of an estate, in a case within the jurisdiction of the court of which the register is register, except as provided in Title 4, section 307, or be in any manner interested in the fees and emoluments arising from such

an estate in that capacity; or [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

C. In violation of this section, commence or conduct, either personally or by agent or clerk, any matter, petition, process or proceeding in the court of which the register is register. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

2. Assistance in drafting. Except as otherwise provided in this section, a register may not draft or aid in drafting documents or paper that the register is by law required to record in full or in part. A register may aid in drafting applications in informal proceedings, petitions or sworn statements relating to the closing of decedents' estates that have not been contested prior to closing, applications for change of name and petitions for guardians of minors. A register or an employee of a court may not charge fees or accept anything of value for assisting in the drafting of documents to be used or filed in the court of which the person is the register or an employee.

[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

3. Penalties. The following penalties apply to violations of this section.

A. A register who violates subsection 1 commits a Class E crime. Violation of subsection 1 is a strict liability crime as defined in Title 17-A, section 34, subsection 4-A. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

B. A register or employee of a court who violates subsection 2 is subject to a civil penalty of not more than $100, to be recovered by a complainant in a civil action for the complainant's benefit or by civil action for the benefit of the county. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).

§1-511. Fees for approved blanks and forms

For all approved blanks, forms or schedule paper required in court proceedings, the register shall charge fees, which must be set by the register and approved by the county commissioners, so as to avoid incurring a loss to the county for such services. The register shall pay such fees to the county treasurer for the use and benefit of the county. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).

PART 6

COSTS AND FEES

§1-601. Costs in contested cases

In contested probate cases and appeals, costs may be allowed to either party, including reasonable witness fees, costs of depositions, hospital records or medical reports and attorney's fees, to be paid to either or both parties out of the estate in controversy, as justice requires. In cases in which a will is contested on the grounds of undue influence or mental capacity, attorney's fees and costs may not be

allowed to a party who unsuccessfully contests the will. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).

§1-602. Filing and certification fees

The person making the request shall pay the register the following fees for filing or certifying documents. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

1. Certification. For making and certifying to the register of deeds copies of devises of real estate, abstracts of petitions for appointment of a personal representative or for an elective share and any other document for which certification is required, the fee is $15 plus the fee for recording as provided by Title 33, section 751, except as otherwise expressly provided by law. The fee must be paid by the personal representative, petitioner or other person filing the document to be certified when the copy of the devise, abstract, petition for elective share or other document for which certification is required is requested. The register of probate shall deliver the certified document to the register of deeds together with the fee for recording as provided by Title 33, section 751.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

2. Filing. For receiving and entering each petition or application for all estates, testate and intestate, including foreign estates, and the filing of a notice by a domiciliary foreign personal representative, except for the filing of a successor personal representative, when the value of the estate is:

A. $10,000 and under, the fee is $20; [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

B. $10,001 to $20,000, the fee is $40; [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

C. $20,001 to $30,000, the fee is $60; [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

D. $30,001 to $40,000, the fee is $75; [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

E. $40,001 to $50,000, the fee is $95; [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

F. $50,001 to $75,000, the fee is $125; [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

G. $75,001 to $100,000, the fee is $190; [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

H. $100,001 to $150,000, the fee is $250; [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

I. $150,001 to $200,000, the fee is $325; [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

J. $200,001 to $250,000, the fee is $375; [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

K. $250,001 to $300,000, the fee is $450; [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

L. $300,001 to $400,000, the fee is $500; [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

M. $400,001 to $500,000, the fee is $575; [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

N. $500,001 to $750,000, the fee is $625; [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

O. $750,001 to $1,000,000, the fee is $700; [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

P. $1,000,001 to $1,500,000, the fee is $750; [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

Q. $1,500,001 to $2,000,000, the fee is $875; or [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

R. More than $2,000,000, the fee is $950, and continuing in steps of $100 for every increase in value of $500,000 or part thereof above $2,500,000. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

For filing a will for no probate, there is no charge.

For filing a will to be probated and without an appointment, the fee is $15.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

3. Copies of court records. For making copies from the records of the court, the fee is $1 for each page.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

4. Certificate of appointment. For each certificate, under seal of the court, of the appointment and qualification of a personal representative, guardian, conservator or trustee, the fee is $5, and for each double certificate, the fee is $10.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

5. Petition for appointment as guardian. For filing a petition for appointment as guardian, the fee is $50.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

6. Application for involuntary hospitalization. For filing an application for involuntary hospitalization, the fee is $10.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

7. Petition for guardian and conservator. For filing a joined petition for guardian and conservator, the fee is $75.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

8. Petition for appointment of conservator. For filing a petition for appointment of conservator, the fee is $50.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

9. Petition for elective share. For filing a petition for elective share, the fee is $120.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

10. Subsequent informal appointments. For all other subsequent informal appointments, the fee is $25.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

11. Other formal proceeding. For filing any other formal proceeding, the fee is $25.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

12. Registration of guardianship order from another state. For registering a guardianship order from another state, the fee is $25.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).

§1-603. Registers to account monthly for fees

A register shall account for each calendar month under oath to the county treasurer for all fees received by the register or payable to the register by virtue of the office, specifying the items, and shall pay the whole amount for each calendar month to the treasurer of the county not later than the 15th day of the following month. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).

§1-604. Expenses of partition

When a partition of real estate is made by order of a judge, the interested parties shall pay the expenses in proportion to their interests. When expenses accrue prior to the closing order or statement of the personal representative of the deceased owner of such real estate, the personal representative may pay the expenses from the personal representative's account. In case of neglect or refusal to pay of any person liable to pay such expenses, the judge may issue a warrant of distress against that person for the amount due and costs of process. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).

§1-605. Compensation of court reporters

Court reporters appointed under Title 4, sections 751 to 756 shall, if a transcript is requested by the court or a party, file the original transcript with the court and receive the same compensation as provided by law for temporary court reporters as well as mileage at the rate of 10¢ a mile. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

Transcripts furnished for the files of the court must be paid for by the county in which the court or examination is held at the rate prescribed by the Supreme Judicial Court, after the reporter's bill has been allowed by the judge of the court in which the services were rendered. In probate matters, the personal representative, conservator or guardian shall, in each case out of the estate handled by that personal representative, conservator or guardian, pay to the register for the county the amount of the reporter's fees, giving the fees the same priority as provided in section 3-815 for other costs and expenses of administration, or as otherwise provided for in the case of insolvent estates. If the estate assets are not sufficient, the court may order payment by the county. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).

§1-606. Court reporters to furnish copies

Court reporters shall furnish correct typewritten copies of the oral testimony taken at any hearing or examination upon request by any person and payment of transcript rates prescribed by the Supreme Judicial Court. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).

§1-607. Surcharge for restoration, storage and preservation of records

1. Surcharge. In addition to any other fees required by law, a register shall collect a surcharge of $10 per petition, application or complaint, except for name changes, filed in the court.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

2. Nonlapsing account. The surcharge imposed in subsection 1 must be transferred to the county treasurer, who shall deposit it in a separate, nonlapsing account within 30 days of receipt. Money in the account is not available for use as general revenue of the county. Interest earned on the account must be credited to the account.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

3. Use of account funds. The money in the account established in subsection 2 must be used for the restoration, storage and preservation of the records filed in the office of the register and in the court. No withdrawals from this account may be made without the express written request or approval of the register.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

4. Waiver of surcharge. The judge may waive the surcharge in subsection 1 if the judge believes that it will prove a hardship for the individual filing the petition, application or complaint.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).

§1-608. Fees not established in statute

Unless otherwise specifically stated in statute or in the Rules of Probate Procedure published by the Supreme Judicial Court, the Probate Court shall charge the same fee charged by the District Court or the Superior Court for similar procedures. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).

PART 7

CHANGE OF NAME

§1-701. Petition to change name

1. Petition; where filed. If a person desires to have that person's name changed, the person may petition the judge in the county where the person resides. If the person is a minor, the person's legal custodian may petition on the person's behalf. If there is a proceeding involving custody or other parental rights with respect to the minor pending in the District Court, the petition must be filed in the District Court.

[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

2. Notice and name change. Upon receipt of a petition filed under subsection 1, the judge, after due notice, may change the name of the person. To protect the person's safety, the judge may limit the notice required if the person shows by a preponderance of the evidence that:

A. [PL 2019, c. 629, §1 (RP).]

B. The person is currently in reasonable fear of the person's safety. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

[PL 2019, c. 629, §1 (AMD).]

3. Record. The judge shall make and preserve a record of a name change. If the judge limited the notice required under subsection 2, the judge may seal the record of the name change.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

4. Filing fee. The fee for filing a name change petition is $40.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

5. Background checks. The judge may require a person seeking a name change to undergo one or more of the following background checks: a criminal history record check; a motor vehicle record check; or a credit check. The judge may require the person to pay the cost of each background check required.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

6. Denial of petition brought for improper purpose. The judge may not change the name of a person if the judge has reason to believe that the person is seeking the name change for purposes of defrauding another person or entity or for purposes otherwise contrary to the public interest.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 629, §1 (AMD).

PART 8

PROBATE AND TRUST LAW ADVISORY COMMISSION

§1-801. Commission established

The Probate and Trust Law Advisory Commission, established in Title 5, section 12004-I, subsection 73-B and referred to in this Part as "the commission," is created for the purpose of conducting a continuing study of the probate and trust laws of the State. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

1. Membership. The commission is composed of 10 members who have experience in practicing probate and trust law or are knowledgeable about probate and trust law. The membership of the commission must include:

A. Two Probate Court Judges, appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court; [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

B. One Superior Court Justice, appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court; [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

C. Five members of the trusts and estates law section of the Maine State Bar Association, appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court; [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

D. One member representing the interests of older people, appointed by the Governor; and [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

E. The Attorney General or the Attorney General's designee. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

2. Terms. A member is appointed for a term of 3 years and may be reappointed.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

3. Vacancies. In the event of the death or resignation of a member, the appointing authority under subsection 1 shall appoint a qualified person for the remainder of the term.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).

§1-802. Consultants; experts

Whenever it considers appropriate, the commission may seek the advice of consultants or experts, including representatives of the legislative and executive branches, in fields related to the commission's duties. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).

§1-803. Duties

1. Examine, evaluate and recommend. The commission shall:

A. Examine this Title and Title 18-B and draft amendments that the commission considers advisable; [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

B. Evaluate the operation of this Title and Title 18-B and recommend amendments based on the evaluation; [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

C. Examine current laws pertaining to probate and trust laws and recommend changes based on the examination; and [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

D. Examine any other aspects of the State's probate and trust laws, including substantive, procedural and administrative matters, that the commission considers relevant. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

2. Propose changes. The commission may propose to the Legislature, at the start of each session, changes in the probate and trust laws and in related provisions that the commission considers appropriate.
[PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).

§1-804. Organization

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court shall notify all members of the commission of the time and place of the first meeting of the commission. At that time the commission shall organize, elect a chair, vice-chair and secretary-treasurer from its membership and adopt rules governing the

administration of the commission and its affairs. The commission shall maintain financial records as required by the State Auditor. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).

§1-805. Federal funds

The commission may accept federal funds on behalf of the State. [PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. A, §2 (NEW). PL 2017, c. 402, Pt. F, §1 (AFF). PL 2019, c. 417, Pt. B, §14 (AFF).

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