

## 2020 South Dakota Legislature

**Senate Bill 148****AMENDMENT 148A FOR THE INTRODUCED BILL**1 **An Act to adopt the Uniform Power of Attorney Act.**

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

3 **Section 1.** That a NEW SECTION be added:4 **59-12-1. Definitions.**5 Terms used in this chapter mean:

- 6 (1) "Agent," a person granted authority to act for a principal under a power of attorney,  
7 whether denominated an agent, attorney-in-fact, or otherwise. The term includes  
8 an original agent, co-agent, successor agent, and a person to whom an agent's  
9 authority is delegated;
- 10 (2) "Durable," not terminated by the principal's incapacity;
- 11 (3) "Electronic," relating to technology having electrical, digital, magnetic, wireless,  
12 optical, electromagnetic, or similar capabilities;
- 13 (4) "Good faith," honesty in fact;
- 14 (5) "Incapacity," inability of an individual to manage property, business, or financial  
15 affairs because the individual:
- 16 (a) Has an impairment or other deficit in the ability to receive and evaluate  
17 information or to make or communicate any decision even with the use of  
18 technological assistance; or
- 19 (b) Is:
- 20 (i) Missing or has disappeared;
- 21 (ii) Detained, including incarcerated in a penal system; or
- 22 (iii) Outside the United States and unable to return;
- 23 (6) "Person," an individual, corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership,  
24 limited liability company, association, joint venture, public corporation,  
25 government or governmental subdivision, agency or instrumentality, or any other  
26 legal or commercial entity;

- 1 (7) "Power of attorney," a writing or other record that grants authority to an agent to  
2 act in the place of the principal, whether or not the term, power of attorney, is  
3 used;
- 4 (8) "Presently exercisable general or limited power of appointment," regarding  
5 property or an interest in property that is subject to a power of appointment, a  
6 power to vest absolute ownership in a principal individually, a principal's estate, a  
7 principal's creditors, or the creditors of a principal's estate. The term includes a  
8 power of appointment not exercisable until the occurrence of a specified event, the  
9 satisfaction of an ascertainable standard, or the passage of a specified period only  
10 after the occurrence of the specified event, the satisfaction of the ascertainable  
11 standard, or the passage of the specified period. The term does not include a power  
12 exercisable in a fiduciary capacity or only by will;
- 13 (9) "Principal," an individual who grants authority to an agent in a power of attorney;
- 14 (10) "Property," anything that may be the subject of ownership, whether real or  
15 personal, legal or equitable, or any interest or right in the subject;
- 16 (11) "Record," information that is inscribed on a tangible medium or that is stored in an  
17 electronic or other medium and is retrievable in perceivable form;
- 18 (12) "Sign," with present intent to authenticate or adopt a record:  
19 (a) To execute or adopt a tangible symbol; or  
20 (b) To attach to or logically associate with the record an electronic sound,  
21 symbol, or process;
- 22 (13) "State," a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the  
23 United States Virgin Islands, or any territory or insular possession subject to the  
24 jurisdiction of the United States;
- 25 (14) "Stocks and bonds," stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and any other type of securities  
26 and financial instrument, whether held directly, indirectly, or in any other manner.  
27 The term does not include commodity futures contracts and call or put options on  
28 stocks or stock indexes.

29 **Section 2.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

30 **59-12-2. Power of Attorney--Inapplicable.**

31 This chapter applies to all powers of attorney other than:

- 32 (1) A power to the extent it is coupled with an interest in the subject of the power,  
33 including a power given to or for the benefit of a creditor in connection with a credit  
34 transaction;

- 1       (2) A power to make health care decisions;  
2       (3) A proxy or other delegation to exercise voting rights or management rights with  
3       respect to an entity; or  
4       (4) A power created on a form prescribed by a government or governmental  
5       subdivision, agency, or instrumentality for a governmental purpose.

6       **Section 3.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

7               **59-12-3. Agent--Effect--Disability.**

8               If a principal designates another as the principal's agent by a written power of  
9               attorney which contains the words "This power of attorney shall not be affected by  
10              disability of the principal," or "This power of attorney shall become effective upon the  
11              disability of the principal," or similar words showing the intent of the principal that the  
12              authority conferred is exercisable notwithstanding the principal's disability, the authority  
13              of the power of attorney is exercisable by the agent as provided in the power of attorney  
14              on behalf of the principal notwithstanding any later disability or incapacity of the principal  
15              or later uncertainty as to whether or not the principal is dead or alive.

16       **Section 4.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

17               **59-12-4. Signature--Presence--Notary Public.**

18               A power of attorney shall be signed by the principal or in the principal's conscious  
19               presence by another individual directed by the principal to sign the principal's name on  
20               the power of attorney. Any signature under this section shall be acknowledged before a  
21               notary public or other individual authorized by law to take acknowledgments.

22       **Section 5.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

23               **59-12-5. Power of Attorney--Validity.**

- 24               (1) A power of attorney executed in this state on or after July 1, 2020, is valid if its  
25               execution complies with § 59-12-4.  
26               (2) A power of attorney executed in this state before July 1, 2020, is valid if its  
27               execution complied with the law of this state as it existed at the time of execution.  
28               (3) A power of attorney executed other than in this state is valid in this state if, when  
29               the power of attorney was executed, the execution complied with:  
30               (a) The law of the jurisdiction that determines the meaning and effect of the  
31               power of attorney pursuant to § 59-12-6; or

1           **(b)** The requirements for a military power of attorney pursuant to 10 U.S.C.  
2                                   § 1044(b).

3           ~~(c)~~ **(4)** Except as otherwise provided by law, a photocopy or electronically transmitted  
4                                   copy of an original power of attorney has the same effect as the original.

5           **Section 6.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

6                                   **59-12-6. Power of Attorney--Jurisdiction.**

7                                   The meaning and effect of a power of attorney is determined by the law of the  
8                                   jurisdiction indicated in the power of attorney and, in the absence of an indication of  
9                                   jurisdiction, by the law of the jurisdiction in which the power of attorney was executed.

10          **Section 7.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

11                                   **59-12-7. Nomination--Conservator--Guardian.**

12                                   (1) In a power of attorney, a principal may nominate a conservator or guardian for  
13                                   consideration by the court. Except for good cause shown or disqualification, the  
14                                   court shall make its appointment in accordance with the principal's most recent  
15                                   nomination. A guardian appointed under this section shall be subject to the  
16                                   provisions of § 59-7-11.

17                                   (2) If, after a principal executes a power of attorney, a court appoints a conservator  
18                                   or other fiduciary charged with the management of some or all of the principal's  
19                                   property, the power of attorney is terminated and the agent shall account to the  
20                                   conservator or other court-appointed fiduciary and promptly deliver any property  
21                                   of the principal in the agent's possession to the conservator or other court-  
22                                   appointed fiduciary unless otherwise ordered by the court.

23          **Section 8.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

24                                   **59-12-8. Power of Attorney--Effective.**

25                                   (1) A power of attorney is effective when executed unless the principal provides in the  
26                                   power of attorney that it becomes effective at a future date or upon the occurrence  
27                                   of a future event or contingency.

28                                   (2) If a power of attorney becomes effective upon the occurrence of a future event or  
29                                   contingency, the principal, in the power of attorney, may authorize one or more  
30                                   persons to determine in a writing or other record that the event or contingency has  
31                                   occurred.

1 (3) If a power of attorney becomes effective upon the principal's incapacity and the  
2 principal has not authorized a person to determine whether the principal is  
3 incapacitated, or the person authorized is unable or unwilling to make the  
4 determination, the power of attorney becomes effective upon a determination in a  
5 writing or other record by:

6 (a) A physician or licensed psychologist that the principal is incapacitated within  
7 the meaning in § 59-12-1; or

8 (b) An attorney at law, a judge, or an appropriate governmental official that  
9 the principal is incapacitated within the meaning in § 59-12-1.

10 (4) A person authorized by the principal in the power of attorney to determine that the  
11 principal is incapacitated may act as the principal's personal representative  
12 pursuant to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, Sections 1171  
13 through 1179 of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1320(d), and applicable  
14 regulations, to obtain access to the principal's health care information and  
15 communicate with the principal's health care provider.

16 **Section 9.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

17 **59-12-9. Power of Attorney--Termination.**

18 (1) A power of attorney terminates when:

19 (a) The principal dies;

20 (b) The principal becomes incapacitated, if the power of attorney is not durable;

21 (c) The principal revokes the power of attorney;

22 (d) The power of attorney provides that it terminates;

23 (e) The purpose of a limited or special power of attorney is accomplished;

24 (f) The principal revokes the agent's authority or the agent dies, becomes  
25 incapacitated, or resigns, and the power of attorney does not provide for  
26 another agent to act under the power of attorney; or

27 (g) Pursuant to subdivision 59-12-7(2).

28 (2) An agent's authority terminates when:

29 (a) The principal revokes the authority;

30 (b) The agent dies, becomes incapacitated, or resigns;

31 (c) An action is filed for divorce or annulment of the agent's marriage to the  
32 principal, or for their legal separation, or for a protection order, unless the  
33 power of attorney otherwise provides;

34 (d) The power of attorney terminates.

1 (3) Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides, an agent's authority is  
2 exercisable until the authority terminates under subdivision (2) of this section,  
3 notwithstanding a lapse of time since the execution of the power of attorney.

4 (4) Termination of an agent's authority or of a power of attorney is not effective as to  
5 the agent or any other person that, without actual knowledge of the termination,  
6 acts in good faith under the power of attorney. An act performed under this section,  
7 unless otherwise invalid or unenforceable, binds the principal and the principal's  
8 successors in interest.

9 (5) Incapacity of the principal of a power of attorney that is not durable does not  
10 revoke or terminate the power of attorney as to an agent or other person that,  
11 without actual knowledge of the incapacity, acts in good faith under the power of  
12 attorney. An act performed under this section, unless otherwise invalid or  
13 unenforceable, binds the principal and the principal's successors in interest.

14 (6) The execution of a power of attorney does not revoke a power of attorney  
15 previously executed by the principal unless the subsequent power of attorney  
16 provides that the previous power of attorney is revoked or that all other powers of  
17 attorney are revoked.

18 **Section 10.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

19 **59-12-10. Appointment--Agents.**

20 (1) A principal may designate two or more persons to act as co-agents. If two or more  
21 persons are appointed as co-agents, and unless the power of attorney otherwise  
22 provides, the concurrence of a majority is required on all acts connected with the  
23 power of attorney. This restriction does not apply when any co-agent receives and  
24 receipts for property due the principal, when the concurrence of a majority cannot  
25 readily be obtained in the time reasonably available for emergency action  
26 necessary to act in the principal's best interest, or when a co-agent has been  
27 delegated to act for others as provided in § 59-12-23. Persons dealing with a co-  
28 agent if actually unaware that another has been appointed to serve or if advised  
29 by the agent with whom they deal that the agent has authority to act alone for any  
30 of the reasons mentioned herein, are fully protected as if the person with whom  
31 they dealt has been the sole agent.

32 (2) A principal may designate one or more successor agents to act if an agent resigns,  
33 dies, becomes incapacitated, is not qualified to serve, or declines to serve. A  
34 principal may grant authority to designate one or more successor agents to an

1 agent or other person designated by name, office, or function. Unless the power of  
2 attorney otherwise provides, a successor agent:

3 (a) Has the same authority granted to the original agent; and

4 (b) May not act until all predecessor agents have resigned, died, become  
5 incapacitated, are no longer qualified to serve, or have declined to serve.

6 (3) Except as otherwise provided in the power of attorney and subdivision (4), an agent  
7 that does not participate in or conceal a breach of fiduciary duty committed by  
8 another agent, including a predecessor agent, is not liable for the actions of the  
9 other agent.

10 (4) An agent that has actual knowledge of a breach or imminent breach of fiduciary  
11 duty by another agent shall notify the principal and, if the principal is incapacitated,  
12 take any action reasonably appropriate in the circumstances to safeguard the  
13 principal's best interest. An agent that fails to notify the principal or take action as  
14 required by this subdivision is liable for any reasonably foreseeable damages that  
15 could have been avoided if the agent had notified the principal or taken any action  
16 under this section.

17 **Section 11.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

18 **59-12-11. Agent--Reimbursement--Compensation.**

19 An agent is entitled to reimbursement of expenses reasonably incurred on behalf  
20 of the principal. An agent is entitled to reasonable compensation for services rendered on  
21 behalf of the principal unless the power of attorney otherwise provides. Any compensation  
22 shall be reasonable under the circumstances.

23 **Section 12.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

24 **59-12-12. Acceptance--Exercising Authority.**

25 Except as otherwise provided in the power of attorney, a person accepts  
26 appointment as an agent under a power of attorney by exercising authority or performing  
27 duties as an agent or by any other assertion or conduct indicating acceptance.

28 **Section 13.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

29 **59-12-13. Agent--Duties.**

30 (1) Notwithstanding provisions in the power of attorney, an agent that has accepted  
31 appointment shall:

- 1           (a) Act in accordance with the principal's reasonable expectations to the extent  
2           actually known by the agent and otherwise in the principal's best interest;  
3           (b) Act in good faith;  
4           (c) Act only within the scope of authority granted in the power of attorney; and  
5           (d) If feasible, encourage the principal to participate in decisions, to act on the  
6           principal's own behalf, and to develop or regain the capacity to manage the  
7           principal's own affairs, if the principal is incapacitated.
- 8       (2) Except as otherwise provided in the power of attorney, an agent that has accepted  
9       appointment shall:
- 10           (a) Act loyally for the principal's benefit;  
11           (b) Act so as not to create a conflict of interest that impairs the agent's ability  
12           to act impartially in the principal's best interest;  
13           (c) Act with the care, competence, and diligence ordinarily exercised by agents  
14           in similar circumstances;  
15           (d) Keep an accurate and contemporaneous record of any receipt,  
16           disbursement, and transaction made on behalf of the principal including any  
17           reimbursement or compensation pursuant to § 59-12-11;  
18           (e) Cooperate with a person that has authority to make health care decisions  
19           for the principal to carry out the principal's reasonable expectations to the  
20           extent actually known by the agent and otherwise act in the principal's best  
21           interest; and  
22           (f) Attempt to preserve the principal's estate plan, to the extent actually known  
23           by the agent, if preserving the plan is consistent with the principal's best  
24           interest based on all relevant factors, including:
- 25                   (i) The value and nature of the principal's property;  
26                   (ii) The principal's foreseeable obligations and need for maintenance;  
27                   (iii) Minimization of taxes, including income, estate, inheritance,  
28                   generation-skipping transfer, and gift taxes; and  
29                   (iv) Eligibility for a benefit, a program, or assistance under a statute or  
30                   regulation.
- 31       (3) An agent that acts in good faith is not liable to any beneficiary of the principal's  
32       estate plan for failure to preserve the plan.
- 33       (4) An agent that acts with care, competence, and diligence for the best interest of the  
34       principal is not liable solely because the agent also benefits from the act or has an  
35       individual or conflicting interest in relation to the property or affairs of the principal.



1 (5) Absent a breach of duty to the principal, an agent is not liable if the value of the  
2 principal's property declines.

3 (6) An agent that exercises authority to delegate to another person the authority  
4 granted by the principal or that engages another person on behalf of the principal  
5 is not liable for an act, error of judgment, or default of that person if the agent  
6 exercises care, competence, and diligence in selecting, instructing, and monitoring  
7 the person.

8 (7) Except as otherwise provided in the power of attorney, an agent is not required to  
9 disclose receipts, disbursements, or transactions conducted on behalf of the  
10 principal unless ordered by a court or requested by the principal, a guardian, a  
11 conservator, another fiduciary acting for the principal, a governmental agency  
12 having authority to protect the welfare of the principal, or, upon the death of the  
13 principal, by the personal representative or successor in interest of the principal's  
14 estate. The agent shall comply within thirty days with the request under this section  
15 or provide a writing or other record explaining why additional time is needed and  
16 shall comply with the request under this section within thirty days from the writing  
17 or other record.

18 **Section 14.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

19 **59-12-14. Agent--Liability.**

20 A provision in a power of attorney relieving an agent of liability for breach of duty  
21 is binding on the principal and the principal's successors in interest except to the extent  
22 the provision:

23 (1) Relieves the agent of liability for breach of duty committed dishonestly, with an  
24 improper motive, or with reckless indifference to the purposes of the power of  
25 attorney or the best interest of the principal; or

26 (2) Was inserted as a result of an abuse of a confidential or fiduciary relationship with  
27 the principal.

28 **Section 15.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

29 **59-12-15. Petition--Court**

30 (1) In addition to any petition under chapter 21-65, the following persons may petition  
31 a court to construe a power of attorney or review the agent's conduct, and grant  
32 appropriate relief:

33 (a) The principal or the agent;

- 1           **(b)** A guardian, conservator, or other fiduciary acting for the principal;  
2           **(c)** A person authorized to make health care decisions for the principal;  
3           **(d)** The principal's spouse, parent, or descendant;  
4           **(e)** An individual who would qualify as a presumptive heir of the principal;  
5           **(f)** A person named as a beneficiary to receive any property, benefit, or  
6                 contractual right on the principal's death or as a beneficiary of a trust  
7                 created by or for the principal that has a financial interest in the principal's  
8                 estate;  
9           **(g)** A governmental agency having regulatory authority to protect the welfare  
10                 of the principal;  
11           **(h)** The principal's caregiver or another person that demonstrates sufficient  
12                 interest in the principal's welfare; and  
13           **(i)** A person asked to accept the power of attorney.  
14       **(2)** Upon motion by the principal, the court shall dismiss a petition filed under this  
15                 section, unless the court finds that the principal lacks capacity to revoke the agent's  
16                 authority or the power of attorney.

17       **Section 16.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

18                 **59-12-16. Agent--Violation--Liable.**

19                 An agent that violates the provisions of this chapter is liable to the principal or the  
20                 principal's successors in interest for the amount required to:

- 21                 **(1)** Restore the value of the principal's property to its value had the violation not  
22                         occurred; and  
23                 **(2)** Reimburse the principal or the principal's successors in interest for any attorney's  
24                         fees and costs paid on the agent's behalf.

25       **Section 17.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

26                 **59-12-17. Agent--Resignation.**

27                 Unless otherwise provided in the power of attorney, an agent may resign by giving  
28                 notice to the principal and, if the principal is incapacitated, to the guardian, if any, and  
29                 any co-agent or successor agent, or to:

- 30                 **(1)** The principal's caregiver; or  
31                 **(2)** If there is no principal caregiver, to:  
32                         **(a)** Another person reasonably believed by the agent to have sufficient interest  
33                         in the principal's welfare; or

1           **(b)** A governmental agency having authority to protect the welfare of the  
2           principal.

3 **Section 18.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

4           **59-12-18. Acceptance--Good Faith.**

5           **(1)** For purposes of this section and § 52-12-19, the term, South Dakota compliant,  
6           means a power of attorney signed by the principal and substantially in the form  
7           provided in § 59-12-41 and acknowledged before a notary public or other individual  
8           authorized to take acknowledgements.

9           **(2)** A person that in good faith accepts a South Dakota compliant power of attorney  
10           without actual knowledge that the signature is not genuine may rely upon the  
11           power attorney as being valid.

12           **(3)** A person that in good faith accepts a South Dakota compliant power of attorney  
13           without actual knowledge that the power of attorney is void, invalid, or terminated;  
14           that the purported agent's authority is void, invalid, or terminated; or that the  
15           agent is exceeding or improperly exercising the agent's authority may rely upon  
16           the power of attorney as if the power of attorney were genuine, valid, and still in  
17           effect; the agent's authority were genuine, valid, and still in effect; and the agent  
18           had not exceeded and had properly exercised the authority.

19           **(4)** A person that is asked to accept a South Dakota compliant power of attorney may  
20           request, and rely upon, without further investigation:

21           **(a)** An agent's certification under penalty of perjury of any factual matter  
22           concerning the principal, agent, or power of attorney;

23           **(b)** An English translation of the power of attorney if the power of attorney  
24           contains, in whole or in part, language other than English; and

25           **(c)** An opinion of counsel as to any matter of law concerning the power of  
26           attorney if the person making the request provides in a writing or other  
27           record the reason for the request.

28           **(5)** An English translation or an opinion of counsel requested under this section shall  
29           be provided at the principal's expense unless the request is made more than ten  
30           business days after the power of attorney is presented for acceptance.

31           **(6)** For purposes of this section and § 59-12-19, a person that conducts activities  
32           through employees is without actual knowledge of a fact relating to a power of  
33           attorney, a principal, or an agent if the employee conducting the transaction  
34           involving the power of attorney is without actual knowledge of the fact.

1 **Section 19.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

2 **59-12-19. Power of Attorney--Compliance.**

3 (1) A person shall accept a South Dakota compliant power of attorney or request a  
4 certification, a translation, or an opinion of counsel under subdivision 59-12-18(4)  
5 no later than ten business days after presentation of the power of attorney for  
6 acceptance. If a person requests a certification, a translation, or an opinion of  
7 counsel under subdivision 59-12-18(4), the person shall accept the power of  
8 attorney no later than five business days after receipt of the certification,  
9 translation, or opinion of counsel. A person may not require an additional or  
10 different form of power of attorney for authority granted in the power of attorney  
11 presented.

12 (2) A person is not required to accept a South Dakota compliant power of attorney if:

13 (a) The person is not otherwise required to engage in a transaction with the  
14 principal in the same circumstances;

15 (b) Engaging in a transaction with the agent or the principal in the same  
16 circumstances would be inconsistent with state or federal law;

17 (c) The person has actual knowledge of the termination of the agent's authority  
18 or of the power of attorney before exercise of the power;

19 (d) A request for a certification, a translation, or an opinion of counsel under  
20 subdivision 59-12-18(4) is refused;

21 (e) The person in good faith believes that the power is not valid or that the  
22 agent does not have the authority to perform the act requested, whether or  
23 not a certification, a translation, or an opinion of counsel under subdivision  
24 59-12-18(4) has been requested or provided; or

25 (f) The person makes, or has actual knowledge that another person has made,  
26 a report to the South Dakota Department of Social Services, South Dakota  
27 Department of Human Services, or law enforcement stating a good faith  
28 belief that the principal may be subject to physical or financial abuse,  
29 neglect, exploitation, or abandonment by the agent or a person acting for  
30 or with the agent.

31 (3) A person that refuses in violation of this section to accept a South Dakota compliant  
32 power of attorney is subject to:

33 (a) A court order mandating acceptance of the power of attorney; and

- 1           **(b)** Liability for reasonable attorney's fees and costs incurred in any action or  
2           proceeding that confirms the validity of the power of attorney or mandates  
3           acceptance of the power of attorney.

4 **Section 20.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

5           **59-12-20. Equity.**

6           Unless otherwise required under this chapter, the principles of law and equity apply  
7           to the provisions of this chapter.

8 **Section 21.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

9           **59-12-21. Amend--Supersede--Financial Institutions.**

10           Nothing in this chapter may be interpreted to amend or supersede any other law  
11           applicable to financial institutions or other entities.

12 **Section 22.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

13           **59-12-22. Remedies--Abrogate.**

14           The remedies under this chapter are not exclusive and do not abrogate any right  
15           or remedy under the laws of this state.

16 **Section 23.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

17           **59-12-23. Agent--Actions.**

18           (1) An agent under a power of attorney may do the following on behalf of the principal  
19           or with the principal's property only if the power of attorney expressly grants the  
20           agent the authority and exercise of the authority is not otherwise prohibited by  
21           another agreement or instrument to which the authority or property is subject:

22           (a) Create, amend, revoke, or terminate an inter vivos trust;

23           (b) Make a gift;

24           (c) Create or change rights of survivorship;

25           (d) Create or change a beneficiary designation;

26           (e) Delegate authority granted under the power of attorney;

27           (f) Waive the principal's right to be a beneficiary of a joint and survivor annuity,  
28           including a survivor benefit under a retirement plan;

29           (g) Exercise fiduciary powers that the principal has authority to delegate;

- 1           (h) Exercise authority over the content of electronic communications, as  
2           defined in 18 U.S.C. § 2510(12) and as provided under chapter 55-19,  
3           which are sent or received by the principal; or  
4           (i) Disclaim property, including a power of appointment.  
5       (2) Notwithstanding a grant of authority to do an act described in subdivision (1),  
6           unless the power of attorney otherwise provides, an agent that is not an ancestor,  
7           spouse, or descendant of the principal, may not exercise authority under a power  
8           of attorney to create in the agent, or in an individual to whom the agent owes a  
9           legal obligation of support, an interest in the principal's property, whether by gift,  
10           right of survivorship, beneficiary designation, disclaimer, or otherwise.  
11       (3) Subject to subdivisions (1), (2), (4), and (5) of this section, if a power of attorney  
12           grants to an agent authority to do all acts that a principal could do, the agent has  
13           the general authority described in §§ 59-12-26 through 59-12-38.  
14       (4) Unless otherwise provided by the power of attorney, a grant of authority to make  
15           a gift is subject to § 59-12-39.  
16       (5) Subject to subdivisions (1), (2), and (4) of this section, if the subjects over which  
17           authority is granted in a power of attorney are similar or overlap, the broadest  
18           authority controls.  
19       (6) Authority granted in a power of attorney is exercisable with respect to property  
20           that the principal has when the power of attorney is executed or acquires later,  
21           whether or not the property is located in this state and whether or not the authority  
22           is exercised or the power of attorney is executed in this state.  
23       (7) An act performed by an agent pursuant to a power of attorney has the same effect  
24           and inures to the benefit of and binds the principal and the principal's successors  
25           in interest as if the principal had performed the act.  
26       (8) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1), an agent may amend, terminate,  
27           or revoke an inter vivos revocable trust only when the settlor is incapacitated or  
28           not reasonably available and to the extent expressly authorized by the power of  
29           attorney and by the terms of the governing trust instrument.

30       **Section 24.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

31           **59-12-24. Agent--General Authority.**

- 32       (1) An agent has authority described in this chapter if the power of attorney refers to  
33           general authority with respect to the descriptive term for the subjects stated in

1           §§ 59-12-26 through 59-12-39 or cites the section in which the authority is  
2           described.

3           (2) A reference in a power of attorney to general authority with respect to the  
4           descriptive term for a subject in §§ 59-12-26 through 59-12-39 or a citation to  
5           §§ 59-12-26 through 59-12-39 incorporates the entire section as if it were set out  
6           in full in the power of attorney.

7           (3) A principal may modify authority incorporated by reference.

8           **Section 25.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

9           **59-12-25. Agent--Specific Authority.**

10           Except as otherwise provided in the power of attorney, by executing a power of  
11           attorney that incorporates by reference a subject described in §§ 59-12-26 through 59-  
12           12-39 or that grants to an agent authority to do all acts that a principal could do pursuant  
13           to subdivision 59-12-23(3), a principal authorizes the agent, regarding that subject, to:

14           (1) Demand, receive, and obtain by litigation or otherwise, money or another thing of  
15           value to which the principal is, may become, or claims to be entitled, and conserve,  
16           invest, disburse, or use anything so received or obtained for the purposes  
17           intended;

18           (2) Contract in any manner with any person, on terms agreeable to the agent, to  
19           accomplish a purpose of a transaction and perform, rescind, cancel, terminate,  
20           reform, restate, release, or modify the contract or another contract made by or on  
21           behalf of the principal;

22           (3) Execute, acknowledge, seal, deliver, file, or record any instrument or  
23           communication the agent considers desirable to accomplish a purpose of a  
24           transaction, including creating at any time a schedule listing some or all of the  
25           principal's property and attaching it to the power of attorney;

26           (4) Initiate, participate in, submit to alternative dispute resolution, settle, oppose, or  
27           propose or accept a compromise with respect to a claim existing in favor of or  
28           against the principal or intervene in litigation relating to the claim;

29           (5) Seek on the principal's behalf the assistance of a court or other governmental  
30           agency to carry out an act authorized in the power of attorney;

31           (6) Engage, compensate, and discharge an attorney, accountant, discretionary  
32           investment manager, expert witness, or other advisor;

33           (7) Prepare, execute, and file a record, report, or other document to safeguard or  
34           promote the principal's interest under a statute or regulation;

- 1       (8) Communicate with any representative or employee of a government or  
 2       governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality, on behalf of the principal;  
 3       (9) Access communications intended for, and communicate on behalf of the principal,  
 4       whether by mail, electronic transmission, telephone, or other means; and  
 5       (10) Do any lawful act with respect to the subject and all property related to the subject.

6       **Section 26.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

7               **59-12-26. Power of Attorney--Real Property--Authorization.**

8               Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides, language in a power of attorney  
 9       granting general authority with respect to real property authorizes the agent to:

- 10       (1) Demand, buy, lease, receive, accept as a gift or as security for an extension of  
 11       credit, or otherwise acquire or reject an interest in real property or a right incident  
 12       to real property;  
 13       (2) Sell; exchange; convey with or without covenants, representations, or warranties;  
 14       quitclaim; release; surrender; retain title for security; encumber; partition;  
 15       consent to partitioning; subject to an easement or covenant; subdivide; apply for  
 16       zoning or other governmental permits; plat or consent to platting; develop; grant  
 17       an option concerning; lease; sublease; contribute to an entity in exchange for an  
 18       interest in that entity; or otherwise grant or dispose of an interest in real property  
 19       or a right incident to real property;  
 20       (3) Pledge or mortgage an interest in real property or right incident to real property as  
 21       security to borrow money or pay, renew, or extend the time of payment of a debt  
 22       of the principal or a debt guaranteed by the principal;  
 23       (4) Release, assign, satisfy, or enforce by litigation or otherwise a mortgage, deed of  
 24       trust, conditional sale contract, encumbrance, lien, or other claim to real property  
 25       which exists or is asserted;  
 26       (5) Manage or conserve an interest in real property or a right incident to real property  
 27       owned or claimed to be owned by the principal, including:  
 28       (a) Insuring against liability or casualty or other loss;  
 29       (b) Obtaining or regaining possession of or protecting the interest or right by  
 30       litigation or otherwise;  
 31       (c) Paying, assessing, compromising, or contesting taxes or assessments or  
 32       applying for and receiving refunds in connection with them; and  
 33       (d) Purchasing supplies, hiring assistance or labor, and making repairs or  
 34       alterations to the real property;



- 1     (6) Use, develop, alter, replace, remove, erect, or install structures or other  
2     improvements upon real property in or incident to which the principal has, or claims  
3     to have, an interest or right;
- 4     (7) Participate in a reorganization with respect to real property or an entity that owns  
5     an interest in or right incident to real property and receive, and hold, and act with  
6     respect to stocks and bonds or other property received in a plan of reorganization,  
7     including:
- 8         (a) Selling or otherwise disposing of them;  
9         (b) Exercising or selling an option, right of conversion, or similar right with  
10         respect to them; and  
11         (c) Exercising any voting rights in person or by proxy;
- 12     (8) Change the form of title of an interest in or right incident to real property; and  
13     (9) Dedicate to public use, with or without consideration, easements or other real  
14     property in which the principal has, or claims to have, an interest.

15     **Section 27.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

16             **59-12-27. Power of Attorney--Personal Property--Authorization.**

17             Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides, language in a power of attorney  
18     granting general authority with respect to tangible personal property authorizes the agent  
19     to:

- 20     (1) Demand, buy, receive, accept as a gift or as security for an extension of credit, or  
21     otherwise acquire or reject ownership or possession of tangible personal property  
22     or an interest in tangible personal property;
- 23     (2) Sell; exchange; convey with or without covenants, representations, or warranties;  
24     quitclaim; release; surrender; create a security interest in; grant options  
25     concerning; lease; sublease; or otherwise dispose of tangible personal property or  
26     an interest in tangible personal property;
- 27     (3) Grant a security interest in tangible personal property or an interest in tangible  
28     personal property as security to borrow money or pay, renew, or extend the time  
29     of payment of a debt of the principal or a debt guaranteed by the principal;
- 30     (4) Release, assign, satisfy, or enforce by litigation or otherwise, a security interest,  
31     lien, or other claim on behalf of the principal, with respect to tangible personal  
32     property or an interest in tangible personal property;
- 33     (5) Manage or conserve tangible personal property or an interest in tangible personal  
34     property on behalf of the principal, including:

- 1           (a) Insuring against liability, casualty, or other loss;  
2           (b) Obtaining or regaining possession of or protecting the property or interest  
3                 by litigation or otherwise;  
4           (c) Paying, assessing, compromising, or contesting taxes or assessments, or  
5                 applying for and receiving refunds in connection with taxes or assessments;  
6           (d) Relocating the property;  
7           (e) Storing the property for hire or on a gratuitous bailment; and  
8           (f) Using and making repairs, alterations, or improvements to the property;  
9                 and  
10          (6) Change the form of title of an interest in tangible personal property.

11   **Section 28.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

12           **59-12-28. Power of Attorney--Stocks and Bonds--Authorization.**

13            Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides, language in a power of attorney  
14            granting general authority with respect to stocks and bonds authorizes the agent to:

- 15            (1) Buy, sell, and exchange stocks and bonds;  
16            (2) Establish, continue, modify, or terminate an account with respect to stocks and  
17                 bonds;  
18            (3) Pledge stocks and bonds as security to borrow, pay, renew, or extend the time of  
19                 payment of a debt of the principal;  
20            (4) Receive certificates and other evidences of ownership with respect to stocks and  
21                 bonds; and  
22            (5) Exercise voting rights with respect to stocks and bonds in person or by proxy, enter  
23                 into voting trusts, and consent to limitations on the right to vote.

24   **Section 29.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

25           **59-12-29. Power of Attorney--Commodities--Authorization.**

26            Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides, language in a power of attorney  
27            granting general authority with respect to commodities and options authorizes the agent  
28            to:

- 29            (1) Buy, sell, exchange, assign, settle, and exercise commodity futures contracts and  
30                 call or put options on stocks or stock indexes traded on a regulated option  
31                 exchange; and  
32            (2) Establish, continue, modify, and terminate option accounts.

1 **Section 30.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

2 **59-12-30. Power of Attorney--Banks and Financial Institutions--**

3 **Authorization.**

4 Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides, language in a power of attorney  
5 granting general authority with respect to banks and other financial institutions authorizes  
6 the agent to:

7 (1) Continue, modify, and terminate an account or other banking arrangement made  
8 by or on behalf of the principal;

9 (2) Establish, modify, and terminate an account or other banking arrangement with a  
10 bank, trust company, savings and loan association, credit union, thrift company,  
11 brokerage firm, or other financial institution selected by the agent;

12 (3) Contract for services available from a financial institution, including renting a safe  
13 deposit box or space in a vault;

14 (4) Withdraw, by check, order, electronic funds transfer, or otherwise, money or  
15 property of the principal deposited with or left in the custody of a financial  
16 institution;

17 (5) Receive statements of account, vouchers, notices, and similar documents from a  
18 financial institution and act with respect to them;

19 (6) Enter a safe deposit box or vault and withdraw or add to the contents;

20 (7) Borrow money and pledge as security personal property of the principal necessary  
21 to borrow money or pay, renew, or extend the time of payment of a debt of the  
22 principal or a debt guaranteed by the principal;

23 (8) Make, assign, draw, endorse, discount, guarantee, and negotiate promissory notes,  
24 checks, drafts, and other negotiable or nonnegotiable paper of the principal or  
25 payable to the principal or the principal's order, transfer money, receive the cash  
26 or other proceeds of those transactions, and accept a draft drawn by a person upon  
27 the principal and pay it when due;

28 (9) Receive for the principal and act upon a sight draft, warehouse receipt, or other  
29 document of title whether tangible or electronic, or other negotiable or  
30 nonnegotiable instrument;

31 (10) Apply for, receive, and use letters of credit, credit and debit cards, electronic  
32 transaction authorizations, and traveler's checks from a financial institution and  
33 give an indemnity or other agreement in connection with letters of credit; and

34 (11) Consent to an extension of the time of payment with respect to commercial paper  
35 or a financial transaction with a financial institution.

1 **Section 31.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

2 **59-12-31. Power of Attorney--Entity or Business--Authorization.**

3 Subject to the terms of the governing instrument of an entity or an entity  
4 ownership interest, and unless the power of attorney otherwise provides, language in a  
5 power of attorney granting general authority regarding operation of an entity or business  
6 authorizes the agent to:

- 7 (1) Operate, buy, sell, enlarge, reduce, or terminate an ownership interest;  
8 (2) Perform a duty or discharge a liability and exercise in person or by proxy a right,  
9 power, privilege, or option that the principal has, may have, or claims to have;  
10 (3) Enforce the terms of an ownership agreement;  
11 (4) Initiate, participate in, submit to alternative dispute resolution, settle, oppose, or  
12 propose or accept a compromise with respect to litigation to which the principal is  
13 a party because of an ownership interest;  
14 (5) Exercise in person or by proxy, or enforce by litigation or otherwise, a right, power,  
15 privilege, or option the principal has or claims to have as the holder of stocks and  
16 bonds;  
17 (6) Initiate, participate in, submit to alternative dispute resolution, settle, oppose, or  
18 propose or accept a compromise with respect to litigation to which the principal is  
19 a party concerning stocks and bonds;  
20 (7) With respect to an entity or business owned solely by the principal:  
21 (a) Continue, modify, renegotiate, extend, and terminate a contract made by  
22 or on behalf of the principal with respect to the entity or business;  
23 (b) Determine:  
24 (i) The location of its operation;  
25 (ii) The nature and extent of its business;  
26 (iii) The methods of manufacturing, selling, merchandising, financing,  
27 accounting, and advertising employed in its operation;  
28 (iv) The amount and types of insurance carried; and  
29 (v) The mode of engaging, compensating, and dealing with its  
30 employees and accountants, attorneys, or other advisors;  
31 (c) Change the name or form of organization under which the entity or business  
32 is operated and enter into an ownership agreement with other persons to  
33 take over all or part of the operation of the entity or business; and

- 1           (d) Demand and receive money due or claimed by the principal or on the  
2           principal's behalf in the operation of the entity or business and control and  
3           disburse the money in the operation of the entity or business;  
4       (8) Put additional capital into an entity or business in which the principal has an  
5           interest;  
6       (9) Join in a plan of reorganization, consolidation, conversion, domestication, or  
7           merger of the entity or business;  
8       (10) Sell or liquidate all or part of an entity or business;  
9       (11) Establish the value of an entity or business under a buy-out agreement to which  
10           the principal is a party;  
11       (12) Prepare, sign, file, and deliver reports, compilations of information, returns, or  
12           other papers with respect to an entity or business and make related payments;  
13           and  
14       (13) Pay, compromise, or contest taxes, assessments, fines, or penalties and perform  
15           any other act to protect the principal from illegal or unnecessary taxation,  
16           assessments, fines, or penalties, with respect to an entity or business, including  
17           attempts to recover, in any manner permitted by law, money paid before or after  
18           the execution of the power of attorney.

19       **Section 32.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

20           **59-12-32. Power of Attorney--Insurance and Annuities--Authorization.**

21           Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides, language in a power of attorney  
22           granting general authority with respect to insurance and annuities authorizes the agent  
23           to:

- 24       (1) Continue, pay the premium or make a contribution on, modify, exchange, rescind,  
25           release, or terminate a contract procured by or on behalf of the principal that  
26           insures or provides an annuity to either the principal or another person, whether  
27           or not the principal is a beneficiary under the contract;  
28       (2) Procure new, different, and additional contracts of insurance and annuities for the  
29           principal and the principal's spouse, children, and other dependents, and select the  
30           amount, type of insurance or annuity, and mode of payment;  
31       (3) Pay the premium or make a contribution on, modify, exchange, rescind, release,  
32           or terminate a contract of insurance or annuity procured by the agent;  
33       (4) Apply for and receive a loan secured by a contract of insurance or annuity;

- 1       (5) Surrender and receive the cash surrender value on a contract of insurance or  
2           annuity;
- 3       (6) Exercise an election;
- 4       (7) Exercise investment powers available under a contract of insurance or annuity;
- 5       (8) Change the manner of paying premiums on a contract of insurance or annuity;
- 6       (9) Change or convert the type of insurance or annuity with respect to which the  
7           principal has or claims to have authority described in this section;
- 8       (10) Apply for and procure a benefit or assistance under a statute or regulation to  
9           guarantee or pay premiums of a contract of insurance on the life of the principal;
- 10       (11) Collect, sell, assign, hypothecate, borrow against, or pledge the interest of the  
11           principal in a contract of insurance or annuity;
- 12       (12) Select the form and timing of the payment of proceeds from a contract of insurance  
13           or annuity; and
- 14       (13) Pay, from proceeds or otherwise, compromise or contest, and apply for refunds in  
15           connection with, a tax or assessment levied by a taxing authority with respect to  
16           a contract of insurance or annuity or its proceeds or liability accruing by reason of  
17           the tax or assessment.

18       **Section 33.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

19           **59-12-33. Power of Attorney--Trust--Estate--Probate--Authorization.**

- 20       (1) For purposes of this section, the terms, estate, trust, or other beneficial interest,  
21           mean a trust, probate estate, guardianship, conservatorship, escrow, or  
22           custodianship or a fund from which the principal is, may become, or claims to be,  
23           entitled to a share or payment.
- 24       (2) Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides, language in a power of attorney  
25           granting general authority with respect to estates, trusts, and other beneficial  
26           interests authorizes the agent to:
- 27           (a) Accept, receive, receipt for, sell, assign, pledge, or exchange a share in or  
28           payment from an estate, trust, or other beneficial interest;
- 29           (b) Demand or obtain money or another thing of value to which the principal  
30           is, may become, or claims to be, entitled by reason of an estate, trust, or  
31           other beneficial interest, by litigation or otherwise;
- 32           (c) Exercise for the benefit of the principal a presently exercisable general or  
33           limited power of appointment held by the principal;

- 1            (d) Initiate, participate in, submit to alternative dispute resolution, settle,  
 2            oppose, or propose or accept a compromise with respect to litigation to  
 3            ascertain the meaning, validity, or effect of a deed, will, declaration of trust,  
 4            or other instrument or transaction affecting the interest of the principal;  
 5            (e) Initiate, participate in, submit to alternative dispute resolution, settle,  
 6            oppose, or propose or accept a compromise with respect to litigation to  
 7            remove, substitute, or surcharge a fiduciary;  
 8            (f) Conserve, invest, disburse, or use anything received for an authorized  
 9            purpose;  
 10           (g) Transfer an interest of the principal in real property, stocks and bonds,  
 11           accounts with financial institutions or securities intermediaries, insurance,  
 12           annuities, and other property to the trustee of a trust; and  
 13           (h) Act as a representative pursuant to subdivision 55-18-9(8), except as  
 14           otherwise provided in subdivision 59-12-23(8).

15    **Section 34.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

16            **59-12-34. Power of Attorney--Claims--Litigation--Authorization.**

17            Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides, language in a power of attorney  
 18            granting general authority with respect to claims and litigation authorizes the agent to:

- 19            (1) Assert and maintain before a court or administrative agency a claim, claim for  
 20            relief, cause of action, counterclaim, offset, recoupment, or defense, including an  
 21            action to recover property or other thing of value, recover damages sustained by  
 22            the principal, eliminate or modify tax liability, or seek an injunction, specific  
 23            performance, or other relief;  
 24            (2) Bring an action to determine adverse claims or intervene or otherwise participate  
 25            in litigation;  
 26            (3) Seek an attachment, garnishment, order of arrest, or other preliminary,  
 27            provisional, or intermediate relief and use an available procedure to effect or satisfy  
 28            a judgment, order, or decree;  
 29            (4) Make or accept a tender, offer of judgment, or admission of facts, submit a  
 30            controversy on an agreed statement of facts, consent to examination, and bind the  
 31            principal in litigation;  
 32            (5) Submit to alternative dispute resolution, settle, and propose or accept a  
 33            compromise;

- 1 (6) Waive the issuance and service of process upon the principal, accept service of  
2 process, appear for the principal, designate persons upon which process directed  
3 to the principal may be served, execute and file or deliver stipulations on the  
4 principal's behalf, verify pleadings, seek appellate review, procure and give surety  
5 and indemnity bonds, contract and pay for the preparation and printing of records  
6 and briefs, receive, execute, and file or deliver a consent, waiver, release,  
7 confession of judgment, satisfaction of judgment, notice, agreement, or other  
8 instrument in connection with the prosecution, settlement, or defense of a claim or  
9 litigation;
- 10 (7) Act for the principal with respect to bankruptcy or insolvency, whether voluntary  
11 or involuntary, concerning the principal or some other person, or with respect to a  
12 reorganization, receivership, or application for the appointment of a receiver or  
13 trustee which affects an interest of the principal in property or other thing of value;
- 14 (8) Pay a judgment, award, or order against the principal or a settlement made in  
15 connection with a claim or litigation; and
- 16 (9) Receive money or other thing of value paid in settlement of or as proceeds of a  
17 claim or litigation.

18 **Section 35.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

19 **59-12-35. Power of Attorney--Personal and Family Maintenance--**

20 **Authorization.**

- 21 (1) Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides, language in a power of attorney  
22 granting general authority with respect to personal and family maintenance  
23 authorizes the agent to:
- 24 (a) Perform the acts necessary to maintain the customary standard of living of  
25 the principal, the principal's spouse, and the following individuals, whether  
26 living when the power of attorney is executed or later born:
- 27 (i) The principal's minor children;  
28 (ii) Other individuals legally entitled to be supported by the principal;  
29 and  
30 (iii) The individuals whom the principal has customarily supported or  
31 indicated the intent to support;
- 32 (b) Make periodic payments of child support and other family maintenance  
33 required by a court or governmental agency or an agreement to which the  
34 principal is a party;



- 1 (c) Provide living quarters for the individuals described in subsection (1)(a) by:  
2 (i) Purchase, lease, or other contract; or  
3 (ii) Paying the operating costs, including interest, amortization  
4 payments, repairs, improvements, and taxes, for premises owned  
5 by the principal or occupied by those individuals;  
6 (d) Provide normal domestic help, usual vacations and travel expenses, and  
7 funds for shelter, clothing, food, appropriate education, including  
8 postsecondary and vocational education, and other current living costs for  
9 the individuals described in subsection (1)(a);  
10 (e) Pay expenses for necessary health care and custodial care on behalf of the  
11 individuals described in subsection (1)(a);  
12 (f) Act as the principal's personal representative pursuant to the Health  
13 Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, sections 1171 to 1179,  
14 inclusive, of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1320(d), and applicable  
15 regulations, in making decisions related to the past, present, or future  
16 payment for the provision of health care consented to by the principal or  
17 anyone authorized under the law of this state to consent to health care on  
18 behalf of the principal;  
19 (g) Continue any provision made by the principal for automobiles or other  
20 means of transportation, including registering, licensing, insuring, and  
21 replacing them, for the individuals described in subsection (1)(a);  
22 (h) Maintain credit and debit accounts for the convenience of the individuals  
23 described in subsection (1)(a) and open new accounts; and  
24 (i) Continue payments incidental to the membership or affiliation of the  
25 principal in a religious institution, club, society, order, or other organization  
26 or to continue contributions to those organizations.  
27 (2) Authority with respect to personal and family maintenance is neither dependent  
28 upon, nor limited by, authority that an agent may or may not have with respect to  
29 gifts under this chapter.

30 **Section 36.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

31 **59-12-36. Power of Attorney--Government--Military--Benefits--**  
32 **Authorization.**

- 33 (1) For purposes of this section, the terms, benefits from governmental programs, or  
34 civil or military service, mean any benefit, program, or assistance provided under

1 a statute or regulation including but not limited to, Social Security, Medicare, and  
2 Medicaid.

3 (2) Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides, language in a power of attorney  
4 granting general authority with respect to benefits from governmental programs  
5 or civil or military service authorizes the agent to:

6 (a) Execute vouchers in the name of the principal for allowances and  
7 reimbursements payable by the United States or a foreign government or  
8 by a state or political subdivision of a state to the principal, including  
9 allowances and reimbursements for transportation of the individuals  
10 described in subsection 59-12-35(1)(a), and for shipment of their  
11 household effects;

12 (b) Take possession and order the removal and shipment of property of the  
13 principal from a post, warehouse, depot, dock, or other place of storage or  
14 safekeeping, either governmental or private, and execute and deliver a  
15 release, voucher, receipt, bill of lading, shipping ticket, certificate, or other  
16 instrument for that purpose;

17 (c) Enroll in, apply for, select, reject, change, amend, or discontinue, on the  
18 principal's behalf, a benefit or program;

19 (d) Prepare, file, and maintain a claim of the principal for a benefit or  
20 assistance, financial or otherwise, to which the principal may be entitled  
21 under a statute or regulation;

22 (e) Initiate, participate in, submit to alternative dispute resolution, settle,  
23 oppose, or propose or accept a compromise with respect to litigation  
24 concerning any benefit or assistance the principal may be entitled to receive  
25 under a statute or regulation; and

26 (f) Receive the financial proceeds of a claim described in paragraph (d) and  
27 conserve, invest, disburse, or use for a lawful purpose anything so received.

28 **Section 37.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

29 **59-12-37. Power of Attorney--Retirement--Authorization.**

30 (1) For purposes of this section, the term, retirement plan, means a plan or  
31 account created by an employer, the principal, or another individual to  
32 provide retirement benefits or deferred compensation of which the principal  
33 is a participant, beneficiary, or owner, including a plan or account under the  
34 following sections of the Internal Revenue Code:

- 1           (a) An individual retirement account under 26 U.S.C. § 408;  
2           (b) A Roth individual retirement account under 26 U.S.C. § 408A;  
3           (c) A deemed individual retirement account under 26 U.S.C. § 408(q);  
4           (d) An annuity or mutual fund custodial account under 26 U.S.C. § 403(b);  
5           (e) A pension, profit-sharing, stock bonus, or other retirement plan qualified  
6                 under 26 U.S.C. § 401(a);  
7           (f) A plan under 26 U.S.C. § 457(b); and  
8           (g) A nonqualified deferred compensation plan under 26 U.S.C. § 409A.  
9        (2) Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides, language in a power of attorney  
10       granting general authority with respect to retirement plans authorizes the agent  
11       to:  
12        (a) Select the form and timing of payments under a retirement plan and  
13                 withdraw benefits from a plan;  
14        (b) Make a rollover, including a direct trustee-to-trustee rollover, of benefits  
15                 from one retirement plan to another;  
16        (c) Establish a retirement plan in the principal's name;  
17        (d) Make contributions to a retirement plan;  
18        (e) Exercise investment powers available under a retirement plan; and  
19        (f) Borrow from, sell assets to, or purchase assets from a retirement plan.

20        **Section 38.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

21                 **59-12-38. Power of Attorney--Taxes--Authorization.**

22                 Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides, language in a power of attorney  
23        granting general authority with respect to taxes authorizes the agent to:

- 24        (1) Prepare, sign, and file federal, state, local, and foreign income, gift, payroll,  
25                 property, Federal Insurance Contributions Act, and other tax returns, claims for  
26                 refunds, requests for extension of time, petitions regarding tax matters, and any  
27                 other tax-related documents, including receipts, offers, waivers, consents,  
28                 including consents and agreements under 26 U.S.C. § 2032A, closing agreements,  
29                 and any power of attorney required by the Internal Revenue Service or other taxing  
30                 authority with respect to a tax year upon which the statute of limitations has not  
31                 run and the following twenty-five tax years;  
32        (2) Pay taxes due, collect refunds, post bonds, receive confidential information, and  
33                 contest deficiencies determined by the Internal Revenue Service or other taxing  
34                 authority;

- 1       (3) Exercise any election available to the principal under federal, state, local, or foreign  
2       tax law; and  
3       (4) Act for the principal in all tax matters for all periods before the Internal Revenue  
4       Service, or other taxing authority.

5       **Section 39.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

6               **59-12-39. Power of Attorney--Gifts--Authorization.**

- 7       (1) For purposes of this section, a gift "for the benefit of" a person includes a gift to a  
8       trust, an account under the Uniform Transfers to Minors Act (1983/1986), and a  
9       tuition savings account or prepaid tuition plan as defined under 26 U.S.C. § 529.  
10      (2) Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides, language in a power of attorney  
11      granting general authority with respect to gifts authorizes the agent only to:  
12      (a) Make outright to, or for the benefit of, a person, a gift of any of the  
13      principal's property, including by the exercise of a presently exercisable  
14      general power of appointment held by the principal, in an amount per donee  
15      not to exceed the annual dollar limits of the federal gift tax exclusion under  
16      26 U.S.C. § 2503(b), without regard to whether the federal gift tax  
17      exclusion applies to the gift, or if the principal's spouse agrees to consent  
18      to a split gift pursuant to 26 U.S.C. § 2513, in an amount per donee not to  
19      exceed twice the annual federal gift tax exclusion limit; and  
20      (b) Consent, pursuant to 26 U.S.C. § 2513, to the splitting of a gift made by  
21      the principal's spouse in an amount per donee not to exceed the aggregate  
22      annual gift tax exclusions for both spouses.  
23      (3) An agent may make a gift of the principal's property only as the agent determines  
24      is consistent with the principal's objectives if actually known by the agent and, if  
25      unknown, as the agent determines is consistent with the principal's best interest  
26      based on all relevant factors, including but not limited to:  
27      (a) The value and nature of the principal's property;  
28      (b) The principal's foreseeable obligations and need for maintenance;  
29      (c) Minimization of taxes, including income, estate, inheritance, generation-  
30      skipping transfer, and gift taxes;  
31      (d) Eligibility for a benefit, a program, or assistance under a statute or  
32      regulation; and  
33      (e) The principal's personal history of making or joining in making gifts.

1 **Section 40.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

2 **59-12-40. Application.**

3 Except as otherwise provided in this chapter:

4 (1) This chapter applies to a power of attorney created on, or after July 1, 2020;

5 (2) This chapter applies to a judicial proceeding concerning a power of attorney  
6 commenced on or after July 1, 2020;

7 (3) This chapter applies to a judicial proceeding concerning a power of attorney  
8 commenced before July 1, 2020, unless the court finds that application of a  
9 provision of this chapter would substantially interfere with the effective conduct of  
10 the judicial proceeding or prejudice the rights of a party, in which case that  
11 provision does not apply and the superseded law applies; and

12 (4) An act done before July 1, 2020 is not affected by this chapter.

13 **Section 41.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

14 **59-12-41. Statutory Form--Power of Attorney.**

15 A document substantially in the following form may be used to create a statutory  
16 form power of attorney that has the meaning and effect prescribed by this chapter. The  
17 provisions of §§ 43-28-23 and 7-9-1 apply to any power of attorney that is to be recorded  
18 with the register of deeds.

19 SOUTH DAKOTA

20 STATUTORY FORM POWER OF ATTORNEY

21 IMPORTANT INFORMATION

22 This power of attorney authorizes another person (your agent) to make decisions  
23 concerning your property for you (the principal). Your agent will be able to make decisions  
24 and act with respect to your property (including your money) whether or not you are able  
25 to act for yourself. The meaning of authority over subjects listed on this form is explained  
26 in SDCL chapter 59-12.

27 This power of attorney does not authorize the agent to make health-care decisions  
28 for you.

29 You should select someone you trust to serve as your agent. Unless you specify  
30 otherwise, generally the agent's authority will continue until you die or revoke the power  
31 of attorney or the agent resigns or is unable to act for you.

32 Your agent is entitled to reasonable compensation unless you state otherwise in  
33 the Special Instructions.





1 (INITIAL if you wish for the agent to have authority immediately and also during  
2 your later incapacity.)

3 ( ) This power of attorney is effective immediately and shall not be affected by  
4 disability of the principal.

5 (INITIAL if you wish for the agent to only have authority upon your incapacity  
6 instead of  
7 immediately.)

8 ( ) My agent(s) shall only have the authority to act upon my later incapacity.

9 (INITIAL if you wish for the agent to have authority immediately but not during  
10 your later incapacity.)

11 ( ) This power of attorney is effective immediately but shall terminate upon my  
12 later incapacity.

13 You may give additional special instructions on the following lines:  
14 \_\_\_\_\_  
15 \_\_\_\_\_  
16 \_\_\_\_\_

17 EFFECTIVE DATE

18 This power of attorney is effective immediately unless I have stated otherwise in  
19 the Special Instructions.

20 NOMINATION OF CONSERVATOR AND/OR GUARDIAN (OPTIONAL)

21 If it becomes necessary for a court to appoint a conservator of my estate, I  
22 nominate the following person(s) for appointment:

23 Name of Nominee for conservator of my estate:  
24 \_\_\_\_\_

25 Nominee's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

26 Nominee's Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

27 If it becomes necessary for a court to appoint a guardian of my person, I nominate  
28 the following person(s) for appointment:

29 Name of Nominee for guardian of my person:  
30 \_\_\_\_\_

31 Nominee's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

32 Nominee's Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

33 RELIANCE ON THIS POWER OF ATTORNEY

34 Any person, including my agent, may rely upon the validity of this power of  
35 attorney or a copy



1 of it unless that person knows it has terminated or is invalid.

2 SIGNATURE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

3 \_\_\_\_\_, 2

4 Your Signature Date

5 \_\_\_\_\_

6 Your Name Printed

7 \_\_\_\_\_

8 Your Address

9 \_\_\_\_\_

10 Your Telephone Number

11 State of \_\_\_\_\_ )

12 )SS.

13 County of \_\_\_\_\_ )

14 This Statutory Form Power of Attorney document was acknowledged before me on

15 \_\_\_\_\_, 2 \_\_\_\_\_ by

16 \_\_\_\_\_.

17 (Date) (Name of Principal)

(Seal)

19 Signature of Notary Public

20 My commission expires:

21 IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR AGENT

22 Agent's Duties

23 When you accept the authority granted under this power of attorney, a special legal  
24 relationship is created between you and the principal. This relationship imposes upon you  
25 legal duties that continue until you resign or the power of attorney is terminated or  
26 revoked. You must:

27 (1) Do what you know the principal reasonably expects you to do with the  
28 principal's property or, if you do not know the principal's expectations, act in the principal's  
29 best interest;

30 (2) Act in good faith;

31 (3) Do nothing beyond the authority granted in this power of attorney; and

32 (4) Disclose your identity as an agent whenever you act for the principal by writing  
33 or printing the name of the principal and signing your own name as "agent" in the following  
34 manner:

35 (Principal's Name) by (Your Signature) as Agent under POA dated (Date)

1 Unless the Special Instructions in this power of attorney state otherwise, you must  
2 also:

3 (1) Act loyally for the principal's benefit;

4 (2) Avoid conflicts that would impair your ability to act in the principal's best  
5 interest;

6 (3) Act with care, competence, and diligence;

7 (4) Keep a record of all receipts, disbursements, and transactions made on behalf  
8 of the principal;

9 (5) Cooperate with any person that has authority to make health-care decisions for  
10 the principal to do what you know the principal reasonably expects or, if you do not know  
11 the principal's expectations, to act in the principal's best interest; and

12 (6) Attempt to preserve the principal's estate plan if you know the plan and  
13 preserving the plan is consistent with the principal's best interest.

14 Termination of Agent's Authority

15 You must stop acting on behalf of the principal if you learn of any event that  
16 terminates this power of attorney or your authority under this power of attorney. Events  
17 that terminate a power of attorney or your authority to act under a power of attorney  
18 include:

19 (1) Death of the principal;

20 (2) The principal's revocation of the power of attorney or your authority;

21 (3) The occurrence of a termination event stated in the power of attorney;

22 (4) The purpose of the power of attorney is fully accomplished; or

23 (5) If you are married to the principal, a legal action is filed with a court to end  
24 your marriage, or for your legal separation, unless the Special Instructions in this power  
25 of attorney state that such an action will not terminate your authority.

26 Liability of Agent

27 The meaning of the authority granted to you is defined in SDCL chapter 59-12. If  
28 you violate SDCL chapter 59-12 or act outside the authority granted, you may be liable  
29 for any damages caused by your violation.

30 In addition to civil liability, failure to comply with your duties and authority granted  
31 under this document could subject you to criminal prosecution for grand theft,  
32 embezzlement of property received in trust, among other criminal charges.

33 If the principal is 65 years of age or older, or an adult with a disability, you could  
34 also be prosecuted for elder abuse and financial exploitation.

1 If there is anything about this document or your duties that you do not understand,  
2 you should seek legal advice.

3 **Section 42.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

4 **59-12-42. Statutory Form--Agent Certification.**

5 The following optional form may be used by an agent to certify facts concerning a  
6 power of attorney. The provisions of §§ 43-28-23 and 7-9-1 apply to any power of attorney  
7 that is to be recorded with the register of deeds.

8 AGENT'S CERTIFICATION AS TO THE VALIDITY OF POWER OF ATTORNEY AND  
9 AGENT'S AUTHORITY

10 State of \_\_\_\_\_ )

11 )SS. AFFIDAVIT

12 County of \_\_\_\_\_ )

13 I, \_\_\_\_\_ (Name of Agent),

14 certify under penalty of perjury that

15 \_\_\_\_\_ (Name of Principal) granted me

16 authority as an agent or successor agent in a power of attorney dated

17 \_\_\_\_\_, 2\_\_\_\_\_.

18 I further certify that to my knowledge:

19 (1) The Principal is alive and has not revoked the Power of Attorney or my authority  
20 to act under the Power of Attorney and the Power of Attorney and my authority to act  
21 under the Power of Attorney have not terminated;

22 (2) If the Power of Attorney was drafted to become effective upon the happening  
23 of an event or contingency, the event or contingency has occurred;

24 (3) If I was named as a successor agent, the prior agent is no longer able or willing  
25 to serve; and

26 (4) \_\_\_\_\_

27 \_\_\_\_\_

28 \_\_\_\_\_

29 (Insert other relevant statements)

30 SIGNATURE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

31 \_\_\_\_\_, 2\_\_\_\_\_

32 Agent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

33 \_\_\_\_\_

34 Agent's Name Printed \_\_\_\_\_

1            Agent's Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 2            Agent's Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 3            State of \_\_\_\_\_ )  
 4            )SS.  
 5            County of \_\_\_\_\_ )  
 6            This Agent's Certification as to the Validity of Power of Attorney and Agent's  
 7            Authority document was acknowledged before me on \_\_\_\_\_ , 2  
 8            by \_\_\_\_\_ . (Date) (Name of Agent)  
 9            \_\_\_\_\_ (Seal)

10           Signature of Notary Public  
 11           My commission expires:

12           **Section 43.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

13                 **59-12-43. Statutory Form--Revocation.**

14                 A document substantially in the following form may be used to create a statutory  
 15                 form revocation of power of attorney that has the meaning and effect prescribed by this  
 16                 chapter. The provisions of §§ 43-28-23 and 7-9-1 apply to any power of attorney that is  
 17                 to be recorded with the register of deeds.

18                                         SOUTH DAKOTA  
 19                                         STATUTORY FORM REVOCATION OF POWER OF ATTORNEY  
 20                                         IMPORTANT INFORMATION

21                 This revocation of power of attorney revokes a previously executed power of  
 22                 attorney including any nominations of guardian or conservator made within that  
 23                 instrument. This revocation does not revoke any power of attorney authorizing the agent  
 24                 to make health-care decisions for you. You should immediately deliver copies of this  
 25                 revocation to any person, institution, or company  
 26                 that has a copy of the original power of attorney.

27                                         REVOCATION OF POWER OF ATTORNEY

28                 I \_\_\_\_\_ previously executed a Statutory Form  
 29                 Power of  
 30                 (Name of Principal)  
 31                 Attorney with a date of \_\_\_\_\_ , 2 \_\_\_\_\_ and named the  
 32                 following person as my agent:  
 33                 Name of Agent: \_\_\_\_\_  
 34                 Agent's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Catchlines are not law. (§ 2-16-13.1)

Underscores indicate new language.  
~~Overstrikes~~ indicate deleted language.

1 Agent's Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

2 I also named the following successor agent(s):

3 Name of Successor Agent: \_\_\_\_\_

4 Successor Agent's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

5 Successor Agent's Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

6 Name of Second Successor Agent: \_\_\_\_\_

7 Second Successor Agent's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

8 Second Successor Agent's Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

9 I now hereby revoke that Statutory Form Power of Attorney.

10 EFFECTIVE DATE

11 This revocation of power of attorney is effective immediately.

12 SIGNATURE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

13 \_\_\_\_\_, 2 \_\_\_\_\_

14 Your Signature Date

15 \_\_\_\_\_

16 Your Name Printed

17 \_\_\_\_\_

18 Your Address

19 \_\_\_\_\_

20 Your Telephone Number

21 State of \_\_\_\_\_ )

22 )SS.

23 County of \_\_\_\_\_ )

24 This Statutory Form Revocation of Power of Attorney document was acknowledged

25 before \_\_\_\_\_ me \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_, 2 \_\_\_\_\_ by

26 \_\_\_\_\_.

27 (Date) (Name of Principal)

28 \_\_\_\_\_ (Seal)

29 Signature of Notary Public

30 My commission expires:

31 **Section 44.** That § 59-7-2.1 be AMENDED:

32 **59-7-2.1. Principal--Designation--Healthcare.**

33 Notwithstanding § 59-7-2, if a principal designates another as the principal's  
34 attorney in fact or agent by a written power of attorney which contains the words "This

1 ~~power of attorney shall not be affected by disability of the principal," or "This power of~~  
 2 ~~attorney shall become effective upon the disability of the principal," or similar words~~  
 3 ~~showing the intent of the principal that the authority conferred is exercisable~~  
 4 ~~notwithstanding the principal's disability, the authority of the attorney in fact or agent is~~  
 5 ~~exercisable by the attorney in fact or agent as provided in the power on behalf of the~~  
 6 ~~principal notwithstanding any later disability or incapacity of the principal or later~~  
 7 ~~uncertainty as to whether or not the principal is dead or alive.~~

8 The a principal may designate another as the principal's attorney-in-fact or agent  
 9 pursuant to the provisions of § 59-12-3.

10 A principal may designate any other person as the principal's attorney-in-fact or agent  
 11 for health care decisions, and the attorney-in-fact shall have the authority to make any  
 12 health care decision at any time during which the principal lacks capacity. Any durable  
 13 power of attorney must for health care shall be signed by the principal or in the principal's  
 14 conscious presence by another individual directed by the principal to sign the principal's  
 15 name on the power of attorney. The signature ~~must~~ shall be witnessed by two other adult  
 16 individuals or by a notary public. A power of attorney granted pursuant to this section may  
 17 authorize the attorney-in-fact to consent to, to reject, or to withdraw consent for health  
 18 care, including any care, service, or procedure to maintain, diagnose, or treat a person's  
 19 physical or mental condition.

20 **Section 45.** That § 59-7-2.4 be AMENDED:

21 **59-7-2.4. Nomination--Healthcare--Guardian--Conservator.**

22 A principal may nominate, by a durable power of attorney, for health care a  
 23 guardian of the principal's person or conservator of the principal's estate for consideration  
 24 by the court should guardianship or conservatorship proceedings for the principal's person  
 25 or estate be later commenced if protective proceedings for the principal's estate or person  
 26 are begun after the principal executes the power of attorney for health care. Except for  
 27 good cause shown or disqualification, the court shall make an appointment under this  
 28 section in accordance with the principal's most recent nomination.

29 **Section 46.** That § 21-65-1 be AMENDED:

30 **21-65-1. Definitions.**

31 Terms used in this chapter mean, unless the context otherwise requires:

- 1 (1) ~~"Attorney in fact"~~Attorney-in-fact, "an agent under a power of attorney pursuant to  
2 chapter 59-2 or an ~~attorney in fact~~ attorney-in-fact under a durable power of  
3 attorney pursuant to § 59-7-2.1 or chapter 59-12;
- 4 (2) "Caretaker," a related or nonrelated person who has the responsibility for the health  
5 or welfare of a vulnerable adult as a result of assuming the responsibility voluntarily,  
6 by contract, by receipt of payment for care, or by order of the court;
- 7 (3) "Conservator," as defined in subdivision 29A-5-102(2);
- 8 (4) "Vulnerable adult abuse," any of the following:  
9 (a) Physical abuse as defined in subdivision 22-46-1(7);  
10 (b) Emotional and psychological abuse as defined in subdivision 22-46-1(4);  
11 (c) Neglect as defined in subdivision 22-46-1(6) and § 22-46-1.1; or  
12 (d) Financial exploitation;
- 13 (5) "Family or household member," a spouse, a person cohabiting with the vulnerable  
14 adult, a parent, or a person related to the vulnerable adult by consanguinity or  
15 affinity, but does not include children of the vulnerable adult who are less than  
16 eighteen years of age;
- 17 (6) "Fiduciary," a person or entity with the legal responsibility to make decisions on  
18 behalf of and for the benefit of a vulnerable adult and to act in good faith and with  
19 fairness. The term, fiduciary, includes an attorney in fact, a guardian, or a  
20 conservator;
- 21 (7) "Financial exploitation," exploitation as defined in subdivision 22-46-1(5) when  
22 committed by a person who stands in a position of trust or confidence;
- 23 (8) "Guardian," as defined in subdivision 29A-5-102(4);
- 24 (9) "Peace officer," as defined in subdivision 23A-45-9(13);
- 25 (10) "Petitioner," a vulnerable adult who files a petition pursuant to this chapter, and  
26 includes a substitute petitioner who files a petition on behalf of a vulnerable adult  
27 pursuant to this chapter;
- 28 (11) "Present danger of vulnerable adult abuse," a situation in which the respondent has  
29 recently threatened the vulnerable adult with initial or additional abuse or neglect  
30 or the potential for misappropriation, misuse, or removal of the funds, benefits,  
31 property, resources, belongings, or assets of the vulnerable adult combined with  
32 reasonable grounds to believe that abuse, neglect, or exploitation is likely to occur;
- 33 (12) "Pro se," a person proceeding on the person's own behalf without legal  
34 representation;

- 1 (13) "Stands in a position of trust or confidence," the person has any of the following  
2 relationships relative to the vulnerable adult:
- 3 (a) Is a parent, spouse, adult child, or other relative by consanguinity or affinity  
4 of the vulnerable adult;
- 5 (b) Is a caretaker for the vulnerable adult; or
- 6 (c) Is a person who is in a confidential relationship with the vulnerable adult. A  
7 confidential relationship does not include a legal, fiduciary, or ordinary  
8 commercial or transactional relationship the vulnerable adult may have with  
9 a bank incorporated pursuant to the provisions of any state or federal law;  
10 any savings and loan association or savings bank incorporated pursuant to  
11 the provisions of any state or federal law; any credit union organized  
12 pursuant to the provisions of any state or federal law; any attorney licensed  
13 to practice law in this state; or any agent, agency, or company regulated  
14 under title 58 or chapter 36-21A;
- 15 (14) "Substitute petitioner," a family or household member, guardian, conservator,  
16 attorney in fact, or guardian ad litem for a vulnerable adult, or other interested  
17 person who files a petition pursuant to this chapter; and
- 18 (15) "Vulnerable adult," a person sixty-five years of age or older who is unable to protect  
19 himself or herself from abuse as a result of age or a mental or physical condition,  
20 or an adult with a disability as defined in § 22-46-1.

21 **Section 47.** That § 21-65-10 be AMENDED:

22 **21-65-10. Persons who may make showing for protection order.**

23 The showing required pursuant to § 21-65-11 may be made by any of the  
24 following:

- 25 (1) The vulnerable adult;
- 26 (2) The guardian, conservator, ~~attorney in fact~~ attorney-in-fact, or guardian ad litem  
27 of the vulnerable adult;
- 28 (3) A witness to the vulnerable adult abuse; or
- 29 (4) An adult protective services worker who has conducted an investigation.

30 **Section 48.** That § 21-65-11 be AMENDED:

31 **21-65-11. Relief available for vulnerable adult abuse.**

32 Upon a finding by a preponderance of the evidence that vulnerable adult abuse has  
33 occurred, the court may order any of the following:



- 1 (1) That the respondent be required to move from the residence of the vulnerable adult
- 2 if both the vulnerable adult and the respondent are titleholders or contract holders
- 3 of record of the real property, are named as tenants in the rental agreement
- 4 concerning the use and occupancy of the dwelling unit, are living in the same
- 5 residence, or are married to each other;
- 6 (2) That the respondent provide suitable alternative housing for the vulnerable adult;
- 7 (3) That a peace officer accompany the party who is leaving or has left the party's
- 8 residence to remove essential personal effects of the party;
- 9 (4) That the respondent be restrained from vulnerable adult abuse;
- 10 (5) That the respondent be restrained from entering or attempting to enter on any
- 11 premises when it appears to the court that restraint is necessary to prevent the
- 12 respondent from committing vulnerable adult abuse;
- 13 (6) That the respondent be restrained from exercising any powers on behalf of the
- 14 vulnerable adult through a court-appointed guardian, conservator, or guardian ad
- 15 litem, ~~an attorney-in-fact~~ attorney-in-fact, or another third party; and
- 16 (7) In addition to the relief provided in § 21-65-12, other relief that the court considers
- 17 necessary to provide for the safety and welfare of the vulnerable adult.

18 Any relief granted by the order for protection shall be for a fixed period and may not  
19 exceed five years.

20 **Section 49.** That § 21-65-12 be AMENDED:

21 **21-65-12. Relief available for financial exploitation.**

22 If the court finds that the vulnerable adult has been the victim of financial  
23 exploitation, the court may order the relief the court considers necessary to prevent or  
24 remedy the financial exploitation, including any of the following:

- 25 (1) Directing the respondent to refrain from exercising control over the funds, benefits,
- 26 property, resources, belongings, or assets of the vulnerable adult;
- 27 (2) Requiring the respondent to return custody or control of the funds, benefits,
- 28 property, resources, belongings, or assets to the vulnerable adult;
- 29 (3) Requiring the respondent to follow the instructions of the guardian, conservator, or
- 30 ~~attorney-in-fact~~ attorney-in-fact of the vulnerable adult; and
- 31 (4) Prohibiting the respondent from transferring the funds, benefits, property,
- 32 resources, belongings, or assets of the vulnerable adult to any person other than
- 33 the vulnerable adult.

1 **Section 50.** That § 59-6-11 be AMENDED:

2 **59-6-11. Durable Power of Attorney--Presumption--Liability--Exceptions.**

3 A durable power of attorney ~~that purports to be signed by the principal named in~~  
4 ~~the durable power of attorney~~ for health care designated under the provisions of § 59-7-  
5 2.1 is presumed valid. Another person may rely on the presumption of validity unless the  
6 person has actual knowledge that the power was not validly executed or that the power  
7 was revoked.

8 Except as provided in this section, any person who refuses to accept the authority of  
9 the agent to exercise a power granted under the durable power of attorney for health care  
10 is liable to the principal and to the principal's heirs, assigns, and the personal  
11 representative or successor in interest of the principal's estate in the same manner as the  
12 person would be liable had the person refused to accept the authority of the principal to  
13 act on the principal's own behalf. The person found liable for refusing to accept the  
14 authority of an agent is liable for damages and costs, including reasonable attorney's fees.

15 A person who refuses to accept the authority of an agent to exercise a power granted  
16 under a durable power of attorney for health care is not liable pursuant to this section if:

- 17 (1) The person has actual knowledge of the revocation of the durable power of attorney  
18 before the exercise of the power;
- 19 (2) The duration of the durable power of attorney specified in the durable power of  
20 attorney has expired;
- 21 (3) The person has actual knowledge of the death of the principal;
- 22 (4) The person reasonably believes that the durable power of attorney is not valid under  
23 the law of this state;
- 24 (5) The person reasonably believes that the durable power of attorney does not grant  
25 the agent authority to perform the transaction requested; or
- 26 (6) The person reasonably believes that a course of conduct or refusal to act as  
27 proposed by the agent is contrary to the wishes of the principal as expressed to the  
28 person.

29 This section does not negate the liability that a person would have to the principal or  
30 the agent under another form of power of attorney, under the common law, or otherwise.

31 **Section 51.** That § 59-7-8 be AMENDED:

1           **59-7-8. Immunity.**

2           A physician or other health care provider as defined in subdivision 34-12C-1(5)  
3 acting in reliance on a health care decision by an attorney-in-fact or agent whom the  
4 physician or health care provider believes in good faith is authorized by this chapter to  
5 make a health care decision for the principal or a physician or other health care provider  
6 declining to act in reliance on a health care decision by an attorney-in-fact or agent whom  
7 the physician or health care provider believes in good faith is not authorized by this chapter  
8 to make a health care decision for the principal is not subject to criminal prosecution, civil  
9 liability, or professional disciplinary action on the ground that the attorney-in-fact or agent  
10 either had or did not have authority to make a health care decision or for disclosing to the  
11 attorney-in-fact or agent medical records or other information.

12           A physician or other health care provider who in good faith believes that the principal  
13 has or does not have decisional capacity under § 59-7-2.6 is not subject to criminal  
14 prosecution, civil liability, or professional disciplinary action for making that determination.

15           A physician or other health care provider who in good faith makes a determination in  
16 a writing or other record that a principal is incapacitated as defined in § 59-12-1 is not  
17 subject to criminal prosecution, civil liability, or professional disciplinary action for making  
18 that determination.

19           An attorney, judge, or governmental official who in good faith makes a determination  
20 in a writing or other record that a principal is incapacitated within the meaning of § 59-  
21 12-1 is not subject to criminal prosecution, civil liability, or professional disciplinary action  
22 for making that determination.

23   **Section 52.** That § 55-19-1 be AMENDED:

24           **55-19-1. Definitions.**

25           Terms used in this chapter mean:

- 26           (1) "Account," any arrangement under a terms-of-service agreement in which a  
27 custodian carries, maintains, processes, receives, or stores a digital asset of the  
28 user or provides goods or services to the user;
- 29           (2) "Agent," any ~~attorney in fact~~ attorney-in-fact granted authority under a  ~~durable~~  
30 power of attorney pursuant to § 59-7-2.1 chapter 59-12 or nondurable power of  
31 attorney pursuant to chapter 59-2;
- 32           (3) "Carries," engages in the transmission of an electronic communication;

- 1 (4) "Catalogue of electronic communications," information that identifies each person  
2 with whom a user has had an electronic communication, the time and date of the  
3 communication, and the electronic address of the person;
- 4 (5) "Conservator," any person appointed by a court to manage the estate of a living  
5 individual or protected person, including a limited conservator;
- 6 (6) "Content of an electronic communication," information concerning the substance or  
7 meaning of the communication that has been sent or received by a user; is in  
8 electronic storage by a custodian providing an electronic communication service to  
9 the public or is carried or maintained by a custodian providing a remote computing  
10 service to the public; and is not readily accessible to the public;
- 11 (7) "Court," a court of competent jurisdiction;
- 12 (8) "Custodian," any person who carries, maintains, processes, receives, or stores a  
13 digital asset of a user;
- 14 (9) "Designated recipient," any person chosen by the user of an online tool to  
15 administer digital assets of the user;
- 16 (10) "Digital asset," any electronic record in which an individual has a right or interest.  
17 The term does not include an underlying asset or liability unless the asset or liability  
18 is itself an electronic record;
- 19 (11) "Electronic," relating to technology having electrical, digital, magnetic, wireless,  
20 optical, electromagnetic, or similar capabilities;
- 21 (12) "Electronic communication," has the meaning set forth in 18 U.S.C. Section  
22 2510(12), as of January 1, 2017;
- 23 (13) "Electronic-communication service," any custodian who provides to a user the  
24 ability to send or receive an electronic communication;
- 25 (14) "Fiduciary," any person who is an original, additional, or successor personal  
26 representative, conservator, agent, or trustee;
- 27 (15) "Information," data, text, images, videos, sounds, codes, computer programs,  
28 software, databases, or similar intelligence of any nature;
- 29 (16) "Online tool," any electronic service provided by a custodian that allows the user,  
30 in an agreement distinct from the terms-of-service agreement between the  
31 custodian and user, to provide directions for disclosure or nondisclosure of digital  
32 assets to a third person;
- 33 (17) "Person," any individual, estate, business or nonprofit entity, public corporation,  
34 government or governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality, or other legal  
35 entity;

- 1 (18) "Personal representative," any executor, administrator, special administrator, or  
2 any person who performs substantially the same function under the law governing  
3 that person's status other than this chapter;
- 4 (19) "Power of attorney," any record that grants an agent authority to act in the place  
5 of a principal;
- 6 (20) "Principal," any individual who grants authority to an agent in a power of attorney;
- 7 (21) "Protected person," any individual for whom a conservator has been appointed,  
8 including an individual for whom an application for the appointment of a conservator  
9 is pending;
- 10 (22) "Record," information that is inscribed on a tangible medium or that is stored in an  
11 electronic or other medium and is retrievable in perceivable form;
- 12 (23) "Remote-computing service," any custodian who provides to the public computer  
13 processing services or the storage of digital assets by means of an electronic  
14 communications system as defined in 18 U.S.C. Section 2510(14), as of January 1,  
15 2017;
- 16 (24) "Terms-of-service agreement," any agreement that controls the relationship  
17 between a user and a custodian;
- 18 (25) "Trustee," any fiduciary, including a successor trustee, with legal title to property  
19 under an agreement or declaration that creates a beneficial interest in another;
- 20 (26) "User," any person who has an account with a custodian;
- 21 (27) "Will," includes a codicil, testamentary instrument that only appoints an executor,  
22 and instrument that revokes or revises a testamentary instrument.

23 **Section 53.** That § 29A-5-118 be AMENDED:

24 **29A-5-118. Effect--Appointment--Guardian--Conservator--Minor--Protected**  
25 **Person.**

26 The appointment of a guardian or conservator of a protected person does not  
27 constitute a general finding of legal incompetence unless the court so orders, and the  
28 protected person shall otherwise retain all rights which have not been granted to the  
29 guardian or conservator, with the exception of the ability to create an agency and confer  
30 authority on another person to do any act that the protected person might do, pursuant  
31 to § 59-2-1. Unless prior authorization of the court is first obtained, a guardian or  
32 conservator may not change the residence of the minor or protected person to another  
33 state, terminate or consent to a termination of the minor's or protected person's parental  
34 rights, initiate a change in the minor's or protected person's marital status, or revoke or

1 amend a durable power of attorney of which the protected person is the principal, except  
2 as provided in ~~§§ 59-7-10 and § 59-7-11.~~

3 **Section 54.** That § 59-7-2.2 be REPEALED.

4 **59-7-2.2. Recording of continuing power of attorney--Force and effect--**  
5 **Duration.**

6 **Section 55.** That § 59-7-2.3 be REPEALED.

7 **59-7-2.3. Binding effect of agent's acts under continuing power.**

8 **Section 56.** That § 59-7-3 be REPEALED.

9 **59-7-3. Actual knowledge of death or disability required to terminate**  
10 **agency as to persons acting in good faith--Binding effect of agent's actions.**

11 **Section 57.** That § 59-7-4 be REPEALED.

12 **59-7-4. Affidavit of want of knowledge of death--Proof of nontermination of**  
13 **agency.**

14 **Section 58.** That § 59-7-5 be REPEALED.

15 **59-7-5. Report of missing in action does not constitute actual knowledge of**  
16 **death.**

17 **Section 59.** That § 59-7-6 be REPEALED.

18 **59-7-6. Provision for revocation or termination contained in power of**  
19 **attorney unaffected.**

20 **Section 60.** That § 59-7-7 be REPEALED.

21 **59-7-7. Severability of provisions.**

22 **Section 61.** That § 59-7-10 be REPEALED.

23 **59-7-10. Appointment of conservator terminates power of attorney.**