

By: Harris  
(Jackson)

S.B. No. 481

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the removal of a guardian of an incapacitated person  
ordered by a court.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 761, Texas Probate Code, is amended by  
adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

(a-1) The court clerk shall issue notice of an order  
rendered by the court removing a guardian under Subsection (a)(1),  
(2), (3), (4), (6), (7), or (8) of this section. The notice must:

(1) state the names of the ward and the removed  
guardian;

(2) state the date the court signed the order of  
removal;

(3) contain the following statement printed in  
12-point bold font:

"If you have been removed from serving as guardian under  
Section 761(a)(6) or (7), Texas Probate Code, you have the right to  
contest the order of removal by filing an application with the court  
for a hearing under Section 762, Texas Probate Code, to determine  
whether you should be reinstated as guardian. The application must  
be filed not later than the 30th day after the date the court signed  
the order of removal.";

(4) contain as an attachment a copy of the order of  
removal; and

1           (5) be personally served on the removed guardian not  
2 later than the seventh day after the date the court signed the order  
3 of removal.

4           SECTION 2. Subsections (a), (c), and (d), Section 762,  
5 Texas Probate Code, are amended to read as follows:

6           (a) Not later than the 30th [~~10th~~] day after the date the  
7 court signs the order of removal, a guardian [~~personal~~  
8 ~~representative~~] who is removed under Section 761(a)(6) [~~Subsection~~  
9 ~~(a)(6)~~] or (7) [~~, Section 761,~~] of this code may file an application  
10 with the court for a hearing to determine whether the guardian  
11 [~~personal representative~~] should be reinstated.

12           (c) The court shall hold a hearing on an application for  
13 reinstatement under this section as soon as practicable after the  
14 application is filed, but not later than the 60th day after the date  
15 the court signed the order of removal. If, at the conclusion of the  
16 [~~a~~] hearing [~~under this section~~], the court is satisfied by a  
17 preponderance of the evidence that the applicant did not engage in  
18 the conduct that directly led to the applicant's removal, the court  
19 shall set aside an order appointing a successor guardian  
20 [~~representative~~], if any, and shall enter an order reinstating the  
21 applicant as guardian [~~personal representative~~] of the ward or  
22 estate.

23           (d) If the court sets aside the appointment of a successor  
24 guardian [~~representative~~] under this section, the court may require  
25 the successor guardian [~~representative~~] to prepare and file, under  
26 oath, an accounting of the estate and to detail the disposition the  
27 successor has made of the property of the estate.

1           SECTION 3. The changes in law made by this Act to Sections  
2 761 and 762, Texas Probate Code, apply only to a removal of a  
3 guardian ordered by a court on or after the effective date of this  
4 Act. A removal of a guardian ordered by a court before the  
5 effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the  
6 date the order was rendered, and the former law is continued in  
7 effect for that purpose.

8           SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.