

1-1 By: Zaffirini S.B. No. 2342
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 12, 2025; March 25, 2025, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Jurisprudence;
1-4 April 30, 2025, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 5,
1-5 Nays 0; April 30, 2025, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

1-7	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			

1-13 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-14 AN ACT

1-15 relating to the application for appointment of a guardian and to
1-16 requiring criminal history record information and other
1-17 information in connection with the guardianship of a ward or the
1-18 ward's estate.

1-19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-20 SECTION 1. Section 1101.001(b), Estates Code, is amended to
1-21 read as follows:

1-22 (b) The application must be sworn to by the applicant and
1-23 state:

1-24 (1) the proposed ward's name, sex, date of birth, and
1-25 address;

1-26 (2) the name, former name, if any, relationship, and
1-27 address of the person the applicant seeks to have appointed as
1-28 guardian;

1-29 (3) whether guardianship of the person or estate, or
1-30 both, is sought;

1-31 (3-a) whether alternatives to guardianship and
1-32 available supports and services to avoid guardianship were
1-33 considered;

1-34 (3-b) whether any alternatives to guardianship and
1-35 supports and services available to the proposed ward considered are
1-36 feasible and would avoid the need for a guardianship;

1-37 (4) the nature and degree of the alleged incapacity,
1-38 the specific areas of protection and assistance requested, and the
1-39 limitation or termination of rights requested to be included in the
1-40 court's order of appointment, including a termination of:

1-41 (A) the right of a proposed ward who is 18 years
1-42 of age or older to vote in a public election;

1-43 (B) the proposed ward's eligibility to hold or
1-44 obtain a license to operate a motor vehicle under Chapter 521,
1-45 Transportation Code; and

1-46 (C) the right of a proposed ward to make personal
1-47 decisions regarding residence;

1-48 (5) the facts requiring the appointment of a guardian;

1-49 (6) the interest of the applicant in the appointment
1-50 of a guardian;

1-51 (7) the nature and description of any kind of
1-52 guardianship existing for the proposed ward in any other state;

1-53 (8) the name, ~~and~~ address, phone number, and date of
1-54 birth, if applicable, of any person or institution having the care
1-55 and custody of the proposed ward or the proposed ward's estate;

1-56 (9) the approximate value and a detailed description
1-57 of the proposed ward's property, including:

1-58 (A) liquid assets, including any compensation,
1-59 pension, insurance, or allowance to which the proposed ward may be
1-60 entitled; and

1-61 (B) non-liquid assets, including real property;

(10) the name and address of any person whom the applicant knows to hold a power of attorney signed by the proposed ward and a description of the type of power of attorney;

(11) for a proposed ward who is a minor, the following information if known by the applicant:

(A) the name of each of the proposed ward's parents and either the parent's address or that the parent is deceased;

(B) the name and age of each of the proposed ward's siblings, if any, and either the sibling's address or that the sibling is deceased; and

(C) if each of the proposed ward's parents and adult siblings are deceased, the names and addresses of the proposed ward's other living relatives who are related to the proposed ward within the third degree by consanguinity and who are adults;

(12) for a proposed ward who is a minor, whether the minor was the subject of a legal or conservatorship proceeding in the preceding two years and, if so:

(A) the court involved;

(B) the nature of the proceeding; and

(C) any final disposition of the proceeding;

(13) for a proposed ward who is an adult, the following information if known by the applicant:

(A) the name of the proposed ward's spouse, if any, and either the spouse's address or that the spouse is deceased;

(B) the name of each of the proposed ward's parents and either the parent's address or that the parent is deceased;

(C) the name and age of each of the proposed ward's siblings, if any, and either the sibling's address or that the sibling is deceased;

(D) the name and age of each of the proposed ward's children, if any, and either the child's address or that the child is deceased; and

(E) if there is no living spouse, parent, adult sibling, or adult child of the proposed ward, the names and addresses of the proposed ward's other living relatives who are related to the proposed ward within the third degree by consanguinity and who are adults;

(14) facts showing that the court has venue of the proceeding; and

(15) if applicable, that the person whom the applicant seeks to have appointed as a guardian is a private professional guardian who is certified under Subchapter C, Chapter 155, Government Code, and has complied with the requirements of Subchapter G, Chapter 1104.

SECTION 2. The heading to Section 1104.402, Estates Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 1104.402. ~~[COURT CLERK'S]~~ DUTY TO OBTAIN CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD INFORMATION; AUTHORITY TO CHARGE FEE.

SECTION 3. Section 1104.402, Estates Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

(a) Except as provided by Section 1104.404 or 1104.406(a), the clerk of the county having venue of the proceeding for the appointment of a guardian shall, based on information provided in an application filed under Section 1101.001, obtain criminal history record information that is maintained by the Department of Public Safety or the Federal Bureau of Investigation identification division relating to any person, other than an attorney or a person who is a certified guardian, proposed to serve as a guardian under this title, including:

(1) a proposed temporary guardian;

(2) ~~[7]~~ a proposed successor guardian; or

(3) ~~[7-or]~~ any person who will have care and custody of ~~[contact with]~~ the proposed ward or the proposed ward's estate on behalf of the proposed guardian and who is not otherwise required to submit to a criminal background check under this section ~~[7-other]~~

than an attorney or a person who is a certified guardian].

(a-1) A proposed guardian who is an attorney or a certified guardian shall provide to the court the name, address, phone number, and date of birth of any person who will have care and custody of the proposed ward or the proposed ward's estate on the proposed guardian's behalf. If the person having care and custody of the proposed ward or the proposed ward's estate on the proposed guardian's behalf is not also a certified guardian, the clerk shall obtain criminal history record information for that person as specified by Subsection (a).

SECTION 4. Section 1104.405(a), Estates Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Criminal history record information obtained or provided under Section 1104.402 or 1104.404 is privileged and confidential and is for the exclusive use of the court. The criminal history record information may not be released or otherwise disclosed to any person or agency except on court order. The court may use the criminal history record information only to determine whether to:

(1) appoint, remove, or continue the appointment of a private professional guardian, a guardianship program, or the Health and Human Services Commission; or

(2) appoint any person proposed to serve as a guardian under this title, including a proposed temporary guardian, a proposed successor guardian, or any person who will have care or custody of [contact with] the proposed ward or the proposed ward's estate on behalf of the proposed guardian, other than an attorney or a certified guardian.

SECTION 5. Subchapter A, Chapter 1151, Estates Code, is amended by adding Section 1151.006 to read as follows:

Sec. 1151.006. GUARDIAN'S DUTY TO NOTIFY COURT OF CHANGES CONCERNING CARE AND CUSTODY OF WARD; CLERK'S DUTY TO OBTAIN CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD INFORMATION. (a) This section applies only to a guardian who is a certified guardian or attorney and who has designated a person to have care and custody of the ward or the ward's estate on the guardian's behalf as provided by Section 1104.402(a-1).

(b) A guardian shall notify the court of any change concerning the designation or contact information of a person having care and custody of a ward or the ward's estate on the guardian's behalf not later than the 30th day after the date the change occurs. If, as a result of a change in designation, the guardian wants to designate another person who will have care and custody of the ward or the ward's estate on the guardian's behalf, the notification must also include the name, address, phone number, and date of birth of that other person.

(c) On receipt of notification of a change under Subsection (b) that includes the name of a person who will have care and custody of the ward or the ward's estate on behalf of the guardian, the clerk of the court having jurisdiction over the proceeding shall obtain criminal history record information that is maintained by the Department of Public Safety or the Federal Bureau of Investigation identification division relating to that person.

SECTION 6. Section 155.205(a), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) In accordance with Subsection (c) and the rules adopted by the supreme court under Section 155.203, the commission shall obtain criminal history record information that is maintained by the Department of Public Safety. The clerk shall obtain in accordance with Subsection (b) criminal history record information from the Federal Bureau of Investigation identification division relating to an individual seeking appointment as a guardian or temporary guardian, and any individual who will have care and custody of a proposed ward or the proposed ward's estate on behalf of a certified guardian or attorney who has been appointed guardian as required by Section 1104.402(a-1), Estates Code.

SECTION 7. Section 411.1386(a), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Except as provided by Subsections (a-1) and (a-6), the

clerk of the county having venue over a proceeding for the appointment of a guardian under Title 3, Estates Code, shall, based on information provided in an application filed under Section 1101.001, Estates Code, obtain criminal history record information as provided by Subsection (a-7) that relates to any person, other than an attorney or a person who is a certified guardian, proposed to serve as a guardian under Title 3, Estates Code, including:

- (1) a proposed temporary guardian;
- (2) ~~[,]~~ a proposed successor guardian; or
- (3) ~~[, or]~~ any person who will have care and custody of ~~[contact with]~~ the proposed ward or the proposed ward's estate on behalf of the proposed guardian and who is not otherwise required to submit to a criminal background check under this section ~~[, other than an attorney or a certified guardian]~~.

SECTION 8. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

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