

# STATE OF NEW YORK

6027

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

March 4, 2025

Introduced by Sen. PARKER -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Mental Health

AN ACT to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to requiring petitioners for appointment of a guardian to identify other persons who may be able to manage the affairs of an incapacitated person

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Subdivision (e) of section 81.03 of the mental hygiene law,  
2 as amended by chapter 438 of the laws of 2004, is amended to read as  
3 follows:

4 (e) "available resources" means resources such as, but not limited to,  
5 all persons identified in subparagraphs (i) through (iv) of paragraph  
6 one of subdivision (g) of section 81.07 of this article, visiting nurs-  
7 es, homemakers, home health aides, adult day care and multipurpose  
8 senior citizen centers, powers of attorney, health care proxies, trusts,  
9 representative and protective payees, and residential care facilities.

10 § 2. Paragraph 7 of subdivision (a) of section 81.06 of the mental  
11 hygiene law, as amended by chapter 438 of the laws of 2004, is amended  
12 to read as follows:

13 7. the chief executive officer, or the designee of the chief executive  
14 officer, of a facility in which the person alleged to be incapacitated  
15 is a patient or resident, except for where the petition is brought  
16 primarily for purposes of bill collection or resolving a bill collection  
17 dispute. Provided, however, where there is no other legally authorized  
18 or otherwise available resource, the chief executive officer, or desig-  
19 nee of the chief executive officer, of such facility described in this  
20 article may file a petition under this article where a guardian is need-  
21 ed to apply for or engage in planning necessary to establish eligibility  
22 for medical assistance as provided under title eleven of article five of  
23 the social services law for the benefit of the person alleged to be  
24 incapacitated.

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 § 3. Subparagraph (iii) of paragraph 1 of subdivision (g) of section  
2 81.07 of the mental hygiene law, as amended by chapter 438 of the laws  
3 of 2004, is amended to read as follows:

4 (iii) any person or persons designated by the alleged incapacitated  
5 person with authority pursuant to [~~sections 5-1501, 5-1505, and 5-1506~~]  
6 title fifteen of article five of the general obligations law, or  
7 [~~sections two thousand nine hundred five and~~] section two thousand nine  
8 hundred eighty-one of the public health law, if known to the petitioner;  
9 and

10 § 4. Paragraph 14 of subdivision (a) of section 81.08 of the mental  
11 hygiene law, as added by chapter 698 of the laws of 1992, is amended to  
12 read as follows:

13 14. the available resources, if any, that have been considered by the  
14 petitioner, the steps taken to identify available resources, and the  
15 petitioner's opinion as to [~~their sufficiency and reliability~~] why such  
16 resources are not sufficient or reliable enough to meet the alleged  
17 incapacitated person's needs without the appointment of a guardian;

18 § 5. Paragraph 15 of subdivision (a) of section 81.08 of the mental  
19 hygiene law is renumbered paragraph 18, and three new paragraphs 15, 16  
20 and 17 are added to read as follows:

21 15. for all available resources considered by the petitioner, the  
22 name, address, telephone number along with any other contact informa-  
23 tion, relationship to the alleged incapacitated person and any documents  
24 known to the petitioner that grant the available resource legal authori-  
25 ty to manage the personal, medical and/or financial affairs of the  
26 alleged incapacitated person;

27 16. if the petitioner seeks to revoke any lawfully executed appoint-  
28 ment or delegation made by the alleged incapacitated person pursuant to  
29 title fifteen of article five of the general obligations law or section  
30 twenty-nine hundred eighty-one of the public health law, or any living  
31 will, the petition shall set forth specific reasons for the revocation;

32 17. an affirmative statement that the petition is not brought primari-  
33 ly for the purpose of bill collection or resolving a bill collection  
34 dispute;

35 § 6. Subparagraph (xi) of paragraph 5 of subdivision (c) of section  
36 81.09 of the mental hygiene law, as amended by chapter 438 of the laws  
37 of 2004, is amended to read as follows:

38 (xi) has the person alleged to be incapacitated made any appointment  
39 or delegation pursuant to [~~section 5-1501, 5-1505, or 5-1506~~] title  
40 fifteen of article five of the general obligations law[, ~~section two~~  
41 ~~thousand nine hundred sixty five~~] or section two thousand nine hundred  
42 eighty-one of the public health law, or a living will;

43 § 7. Paragraph 1 of subdivision (d) of section 81.19 of the mental  
44 hygiene law, as added by chapter 698 of the laws of 1992, is amended to  
45 read as follows:

46 1. any appointment or delegation made by the person alleged to be  
47 incapacitated in accordance with the provisions of [~~section 5-1501,~~  
48 ~~5-1601 or 5-1602~~] title fifteen of article five of the general obli-  
49 gations law and [~~sections two thousand nine hundred sixty five and~~]  
50 section two thousand nine hundred eighty-one of the public health law;

51 § 8. The opening paragraph of subdivision (e) of section 81.19 of the  
52 mental hygiene law, as added by chapter 698 of the laws of 1992, is  
53 amended to read as follows:

54 [~~Unless the court finds that no other person or corporation is avail-~~  
55 ~~able or willing to act as guardian, or to provide needed services for~~

1 ~~the incapacitated person, the~~ The following persons or corporations may  
2 not serve as guardian:

3 § 9. Paragraph 2 of subdivision (b) of section 81.22 of the mental  
4 hygiene law, as added by chapter 698 of the laws of 1992, is amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 2. revoke any appointment or delegation made by the incapacitated  
7 person pursuant to [~~sections 5-1501, 5-1601 and 5-1602~~] title fifteen of  
8 article five of the general obligations law[~~, sections two thousand nine~~  
9 ~~hundred sixty-five and~~] section two thousand nine hundred eighty-one of  
10 the public health law, or any living will.

11 § 10. Subdivision (d) of section 81.29 of the mental hygiene law, as  
12 amended by chapter 176 of the laws of 2008, is amended to read as  
13 follows:

14 (d) If the court determines that the person is incapacitated and  
15 appoints a guardian, the court may modify, amend, or revoke any previ-  
16 ously executed appointment, power, or delegation under [~~section 5-1501,~~  
17 ~~5-1505, or 5-1506~~] title fifteen of article five of the general obli-  
18 gations law [~~or section two thousand nine hundred sixty-five of the~~  
19 ~~public health law,~~] or section two thousand nine hundred eighty-one of  
20 the public health law notwithstanding section two thousand nine hundred  
21 ninety-two of the public health law, or any contract, conveyance, or  
22 disposition during lifetime or to take effect upon death, made by the  
23 incapacitated person prior to the appointment of the guardian if the  
24 court finds that the previously executed appointment, power, delegation,  
25 contract, conveyance, or disposition during lifetime or to take effect  
26 upon death, was made while the person was incapacitated or if the court  
27 determines that there has been a breach of fiduciary duty by the previ-  
28 ously appointed agent. In such event, the court shall require that the  
29 agent account to the guardian. The court shall not, however, invalidate  
30 or revoke a will or a codicil of an incapacitated person during the  
31 lifetime of such person.

32 § 11. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day  
33 after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, any rules and  
34 regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this act on its  
35 effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such  
36 effective date.