PUBLICATION UPDATE

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Henry's Indiana Probate Law and Practice

Publication 62794 Release 14 September 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

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- Henry's Indiana Probate Law and Practice, well-known and respected for more than a century, provides attorneys with a comprehensive and current analysis of Indiana probate law as well as estate planning and administration. Written by three experienced attorneys in Indiana estate planning and probate law, Henry's provides a logical, organized approach to every stage of the probate process. It includes coverage of the Indiana Probate and Trust Codes and analyzes recent legislative changes and judicial decisions.

New Legislation—Indiana amended Code Section 29-3-5-4 and 29-3-5-5 to allow a court to consider a request by a parent of a minor or de facto custodian of a minor, made directly to the court or contained in the power of attorney of the parent or de facto custodian. *See* §§ 8.03, 33.42, 37.34

New Case—In Anonymous M.D. v. Lockridge, 60 N.E.3d 249 (Ind. Ct. App. 2016), the court held that the statute of limitations exception in I.C. 34-18-7-1(b) for minors less than six (6) years of age does not require that the minor be a party injured by the alleged negligence. The statutory exception also extends the filing period for a minor bringing a derivative claim as a non-injured party. See § 14.20, 14.21

New Case—In ABC Radiology, P.C. v. Gearhart, 69 N.E.3d 545 (Ind. Ct. App. 2017), the court clarified that, unlike traditional insurance coverage disputes where a declaratory action to determine coverage is brought separately from the underlying tort, a declaratory action determining the applicability of the Medical Malpractice Act is deemed to arise out of the same transaction or occurrence as the underlying tort, and thus is properly joined under Indiana Trial Rule 20. As a consequence, preferred venue will often lie in Marion County,

irrespective of a tortfeasor's residence, because the Indiana Patients Compensation Fund and Indiana Department of Insurance, as a result of the declaratory action, are named defendants. *See* § 14.20

New Legislation—Indiana amended Code Section 30-5-3-4 to allow a parent or de facto custodian of a minor child, or the parent of an incapacitated person, to make nominations in their power of attorney for who should serve as guardian of the minor child or incapacitate person in their care. See § 37.34

New Legislation—Indiana amended Code Section 16-36-1-5 in part (a) to allow an adult grandchild or a grandparent to consent to healthcare for a person without a healthcare representative, or whose named healthcare representative is unwilling or unable to act. Part (b)(3) was amended to allow an adult sibling to consent to healthcare for a minor sibling, in addition to existing requirements, only after the health care provider has made reasonable efforts to locate the parent or person serving in loco parentis. Part (b)(4) was added to allow a grandparent to consent to healthcare of a minor child if there is no court appointed guardian, the parent or person in loco parentis is unavailable or unwilling to consent, or the healthcare provider has made reasonable efforts to locate the parent or person serving in loco parentis. See § 29.25

New Case—In *Underwood v. Bunger*, 70 N.E.3d 338 (Ind. 2017) the Indiana Supreme Court determined that where warranty deed transfers to third party, husband, and spouse, with husband and spouse identified as such, "all as tenants-in-common," the phrase "all as tenants in common" reasonably reflects the parties' intention to establish a different form of tenancy between the spouses than the presumption,

and to instead establish a tenancy in common between and among all three parties. *See* § 34.03

New Case—In Estate of Ecker v. Estate of Samson, 59 N.E.3d 282 (Ind. Ct. App. 2016), the Court of Appeals, deciding a wrongful death case where the estate was insufficient to satisfy the claim, held that the language in Ind. Code Section 32-17-13-1(b)(4) and (5) excluding retirement accounts and benefits under an employee benefit plan from recovery is broadly construed to include profit sharing plans that are not otherwise protected by federal law from creditors. See § 34.21

New Case—In *H.S. v. W.P.*, 66 N.E.3d 623 (Ind. Ct. App. 2016), the Court of Appeals held that Guardianship petitioner was not barred by res judicata, despite prior trust action alleging undue influence on the prospective ward, where guardianship petitioner was not given notice of the voluntary motion to dismiss trust action. *See* § 37.9, 39.17, 39.38

New Legislation—Indiana amended Code Section 29-3-12-1 to allow a guardian to request health records for 60 days after the death of the protected person, unless a personal representative has been appointed for the estate of the incapacitated person. See § 37.27

New Legislation—Indiana amended Code Section 31-17-5-3 to add paragraph (b) which states that a petition for a proceeding for grandparent's visitation rights must be filed prior to the date a decree for adoption is entered. See § 38.03

New Legislation—Indiana amended Code Section 31-19-2.5-3 to require notice of an adoption to be given to the grandparent of a child who is to be adopted. *See* § 38.03

New Legislation—Indiana amended

Code Section 31-19-4.5-1 to require notice to be given to a grandparent of an adopted child in a form substantially similar to the form prescribed by Ind. Code Section 31-19-4.5-3. See § 38.03

New Legislation—Indiana amended Code Section 31-19-4.5-1 to effectively limit the requirement to give notice to grandparents of a child to be adopted to those parents with a right to petition for visitation rights and whose visitation rights will not be terminated after the adoption pursuant to Ind. Code Section 31-17-5-9. See § 38.03

New Legislation—Indiana added Indiana Code Section 31-19-4.5-1.5, which limits the grandparents' notice of adoption to the issue of visitation rights, and removes the need to give notice to a grandparent of a child who is in "the care, custody, or control of the department" of child services. See § 38.03

New Case—In *A.G. v. M.G.* 64 N.E.3d 1246 (Ind. Ct. App. 2016), the Court of Appeals ruled that the trial court's order granting a public defender's motion to withdraw, without notice or replacement, was an abuse of discretion because the motion was in violation of local rules, and the order thereon left the parent, whose rights were subject to termination, without counsel during the adoption hearing, despite parent's request for representation. *See* § 38.04

New Legislation—Indiana amended Code Sections 31-19-3-4, 31-19-4-4, and 31-19-4-5 to state that failure of a putative father to respond appropriately to a notice of adoption within 30 days results in the putative father losing his right to establish paternity by affidavit or otherwise both in Indiana or any other jurisdiction. *See*

§ 38.03

New Legislation—Indiana added Code Section 30-4-3-7.5 to allow a trustee to engage in self-dealing, as described in Ind. Code Section 30-4-3-7 if the trustee has the written consent of all qualified beneficiaries, or the action is approved by court order issued after notice to all qualified beneficiaries and a hearing to ensure the trust received or delivered adequate consideration. *See* § 39.27, 39.47

New Legislation—Indiana added Code Section 30-4-6-6.5 requiring that the sending of a notice or document to an interested party of a trust must be accomplished in a manner reasonably suited to the circumstances that is likely to result in the receipt of said document. Permissible methods include "first class mail, personal delivery, delivery to the person's last known residence or place of business, or electronic delivery . . . if the intended party has" agreed to receive or access "a properly directed electronic message." In addition to agreement by the sender and recipient in writing or electronic communication to the chosen method, the method meets the requirements of the Indiana Code if it is "reasonably calculated to prevent unauthorized access to the content . . . or to nonpublic identifying or personal information of the sender or recipient." See §§ 30.49, 39.57

New Legislation—Indiana added Code Section 32-18-2-23 renaming the Indiana Fraudulent Transfers Act as the Uniform Voidable Transactions Act. *See* §§ 14.10, 25.12, 32.06, 32.13, 39.23, 39.69

New Form—A form of Gun Trust has been added. *See* discussion in § 45.02[2] and Form 45.29.

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