



March 19, 2019

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**ENGROSSED  
SENATE BILL No. 380**

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DIGEST OF SB 380 (Updated March 18, 2019 1:12 pm - DI 133)

**Citations Affected:** IC 29-3; IC 34-30.

**Synopsis:** Supported decision making. Requires that a person who files a petition for the appointment of a guardian for an incapacitated person or minor must inform the court what less restrictive alternatives were considered or implemented and, if less restrictive alternatives were not considered or implemented, the reason for the failure to consider or implement less restrictive alternatives. Provides for the use of supported decision making agreements for adults who need support and accommodations in making, communicating, and effectuating decisions.

**Effective:** July 1, 2019.

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**Koch, Head, Lanane, Taylor G,  
Bohacek, Rogers**

(HOUSE SPONSORS — MCNAMARA, TORR, DELANEY)

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January 14, 2019, read first time and referred to Committee on Judiciary.  
February 21, 2019, amended, reported favorably — Do Pass.  
February 25, 2019, read second time, ordered engrossed. Engrossed.  
February 26, 2019, read third time, passed. Yeas 48, nays 0.

HOUSE ACTION

March 5, 2019, read first time and referred to Committee on Judiciary.  
March 18, 2019, reported — Do Pass.

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ES 380—LS 6949/DI 128





March 19, 2019

First Regular Session of the 121st General Assembly (2019)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2018 Regular and Special Session of the General Assembly.

## ENGROSSED SENATE BILL No. 380

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning probate.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

1 SECTION 1. IC 29-3-1-7.8 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE  
2 AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY  
3 1, 2019]: **Sec. 7.8. (a) "Less restrictive alternatives" means an**  
4 **approach to meeting a person's needs that restricts fewer rights of**  
5 **the person than would the appointment of the guardian.**  
6 **(b) Less restrictive alternatives may include, but are not limited**  
7 **to, the following:**  
8 **(1) A supported decision making agreement (as defined in**  
9 **IC 29-3-14-2).**  
10 **(2) Appropriate technological assistance.**  
11 **(3) The appointment of a representative payee.**  
12 **(4) The appointment of a health care representative (as**  
13 **defined in IC 16-36-1-2).**  
14 **(5) The creation of a power of attorney (as defined in**  
15 **IC 30-5-2-7).**  
16 SECTION 2. IC 29-3-5-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.162-2011,  
17 SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE

ES 380—LS 6949/DI 128



1 JULY 1, 2019]: Sec. 1. (a) Any person may file a petition for the  
2 appointment of a person to serve as guardian for an incapacitated  
3 person or minor under this chapter or to have a protective order issued  
4 under IC 29-3-4. The petition must state the following:

5 (1) The name, age, residence, and post office address of the  
6 alleged incapacitated person or minor for whom the guardian is  
7 sought to be appointed or the protective order issued.

8 (2) The nature of the incapacity.

9 (3) The approximate value and description of the property of the  
10 incapacitated person or minor, including any compensation,  
11 pension, insurance, or allowance to which the incapacitated  
12 person or minor may be entitled.

13 (4) If a limited guardianship is sought, the particular limitations  
14 requested.

15 (5) Whether a protective order has been issued or a guardian has  
16 been appointed or is acting for the incapacitated person or minor  
17 in any state.

18 (6) The residence and post office address of the proposed  
19 guardian or person to carry out the protective order and the  
20 relationship to the alleged incapacitated person of:

21 (A) the proposed guardian; or

22 (B) the person proposed to carry out the protective order.

23 (7) The names and addresses, as far as known or as can  
24 reasonably be ascertained, of the persons most closely related by  
25 blood or marriage to the person for whom the guardian is sought  
26 to be appointed or the protective order is issued.

27 (8) The name and address of the person or institution having the  
28 care and custody of the person for whom the guardian is sought  
29 to be appointed or the protective order is issued.

30 (9) The names and addresses of any other incapacitated persons  
31 or minors for whom the proposed guardian or person to carry out  
32 the protective order is acting if the proposed guardian or person  
33 is an individual.

34 (10) The reasons the appointment of a guardian or issuance of a  
35 protective order is sought and the interest of the petitioner in the  
36 appointment or issuance.

37 **(11) A description of the petitioner's efforts to use less**  
38 **restrictive alternatives before seeking guardianship,**  
39 **including:**

40 **(A) the less restrictive alternatives for meeting the alleged**  
41 **incapacitated person's needs that were considered or**  
42 **implemented;**



1           **(B) if a less restrictive alternative was not considered or**  
 2           **implemented, the reason that the less restrictive alternative**  
 3           **was not considered or implemented; and**

4           **(C) the reason a less restrictive alternative is insufficient to**  
 5           **meet the needs of the alleged incapacitated person.**

6           ~~(11)~~ **(12)** The name and business address of the attorney who is  
 7           to represent the guardian or person to carry out the protective  
 8           order.

9           ~~(12)~~ **(13)** Whether a child in need of services petition or a  
 10           program of informal adjustment has been filed regarding the  
 11           minor for whom a guardianship is being sought, and, if so,  
 12           whether the case regarding the minor is open at the time the  
 13           guardianship petition is filed.

14           (b) Notice of a petition under this section for the appointment of a  
 15           guardian or the issuance of a protective order and the hearing on the  
 16           petition shall be given under IC 29-3-6.

17           (c) After the filing of a petition, the court shall set a date for a  
 18           hearing on the issues raised by the petition. Unless an alleged  
 19           incapacitated person is already represented by counsel, the court may  
 20           appoint an attorney to represent the incapacitated person.

21           (d) A person alleged to be an incapacitated person must be present  
 22           at the hearing on the issues raised by the petition and any response to  
 23           the petition unless the court determines by evidence that:

24           (1) it is impossible or impractical for the alleged incapacitated  
 25           person to be present due to the alleged incapacitated person's  
 26           disappearance, absence from the state, or similar circumstance;

27           (2) it is not in the alleged incapacitated person's best interest to be  
 28           present because of a threat to the health or safety of the alleged  
 29           incapacitated person as determined by the court;

30           (3) the incapacitated person has knowingly and voluntarily  
 31           consented to the appointment of a guardian or the issuance of a  
 32           protective order and at the time of such consent the incapacitated  
 33           person was not incapacitated as a result of a mental condition that  
 34           would prevent that person from knowingly and voluntarily  
 35           consenting; or

36           (4) the incapacitated person has knowingly and voluntarily  
 37           waived notice of the hearing and at the time of such waiver the  
 38           incapacitated person was not incapacitated as a result of a mental  
 39           condition that would prevent that person from making a knowing  
 40           and voluntary waiver of notice.

41           (e) A person alleged to be an incapacitated person may present  
 42           evidence and cross-examine witnesses at the hearing. The issues raised



1 by the petition and any response to the petition shall be determined by  
 2 a jury if a jury is requested no later than seventy-two (72) hours prior  
 3 to the original date and time set for the hearing on the petition.  
 4 However, in no event may a request for a jury trial be made after thirty  
 5 (30) days have passed following the service of notice of a petition.

6 (f) Any person may apply for permission to participate in the  
 7 proceeding, and the court may grant the request with or without hearing  
 8 upon determining that the best interest of the alleged incapacitated  
 9 person or minor will be served by permitting the applicant's  
 10 participation. The court may attach appropriate conditions to the  
 11 permission to participate.

12 (g) A court shall notify the department of child services of a hearing  
 13 regarding the guardianship of a minor under this section if a:

- 14 (1) child in need of services petition has been filed regarding the  
 15 minor; or  
 16 (2) program of informal adjustment involving the minor is  
 17 pending.

18 The department of child services may participate in a hearing regarding  
 19 the guardianship of a minor described in this subsection.

20 SECTION 3. IC 29-3-9-6, AS AMENDED BY P.L.99-2013,  
 21 SECTION 8, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
 22 JULY 1, 2019]: Sec. 6. (a) Unless otherwise directed by the court, a  
 23 guardian (other than a temporary guardian) shall file with the court:

- 24 (1) at least biennially, not more than thirty (30) days after the  
 25 anniversary date of the guardian's appointment; and  
 26 (2) not more than thirty (30) days after the termination of the  
 27 appointment;

28 a written verified account of the guardian's administration.

29 (b) A temporary guardian shall file with the court, within thirty (30)  
 30 days after the termination of the temporary guardian's appointment, and  
 31 otherwise as ordered by the court, a written verified account of the  
 32 temporary guardian's administration.

33 (c) A written verified account required under this section must  
 34 include the incapacitated person's or minor's current residence and a  
 35 description of the condition and circumstances of the incapacitated  
 36 person or minor, **including a specific showing of whether**  
 37 **guardianship is still necessary and appropriate, and whether any**  
 38 **less restrictive alternatives have been considered or implemented.**

39 (d) The court shall conduct a hearing on each verified account filed  
 40 under this section. The court shall give notice to each person entitled  
 41 to receive notice that an accounting has been filed and will be acted  
 42 upon by the court on the date set unless written objections are



1 presented to the court on or before that date. The court shall give the  
2 notice required by this subsection, unless waived, to the following:

3 (1) The protected person, unless waived by the court. If notice to  
4 the protected person is waived, the court shall give notice to a  
5 person who is not the guardian of the protected person in the  
6 following priority:

7 (A) The protected person's spouse.

8 (B) An adult child of the protected person.

9 (C) A parent of the protected person.

10 (D) A guardian ad litem appointed by the court under  
11 subsection (e).

12 (2) In the case of a protected person who has died, the personal  
13 representative of the estate of the protected person, if any.

14 (3) Any other persons that the court directs.

15 (e) The court may appoint a guardian ad litem to review on behalf  
16 of a protected person an accounting filed under this section if:

17 (1) the protected person does not have a spouse, an adult child, or  
18 a parent; or

19 (2) the same individual:

20 (A) served as the protected person's guardian before the death  
21 of the protected person; and

22 (B) is the personal representative of the protected person's  
23 estate.

24 (f) When an account other than an account in final settlement is  
25 filed, the court may approve the same ex parte, but the account may be  
26 reviewed by the court at any subsequent time and does not become  
27 final until an account in final settlement is approved by the court after  
28 notice and hearing.

29 (g) When notice of hearing has been given under this section, the  
30 order of the court approving the intermediate account or the final  
31 account is binding upon all persons.

32 (h) When a guardian files with the court proper receipts or other  
33 evidence satisfactory to the court showing that the guardian has  
34 delivered to the appropriate persons all the property for which the  
35 guardian is accountable as guardian, the court shall enter an order of  
36 discharge. The order of discharge operates as a release from the duties  
37 of the guardian's office that have not yet terminated and operates as a  
38 bar to any suit against the guardian and the guardian's sureties, unless  
39 the suit is commenced within one (1) year from the date of the  
40 discharge.

41 SECTION 4. IC 29-3-14 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS  
42 A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY

ES 380—LS 6949/DI 128



1, 2019]:

2 **Chapter 14. Supported Decision Making**

3 **Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "supported decision making"**  
 4 **refers to the process of supporting and accommodating an adult in**  
 5 **the decision making process to make, communicate, and effectuate**  
 6 **life decisions, without impeding the self-determination of the adult.**

7 **Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "supported decision making**  
 8 **agreement" means a document that outlines the decision making**  
 9 **supports and accommodations the adult chooses to receive from**  
 10 **one (1) or more supporters.**

11 **Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "supporter" means a person at**  
 12 **least eighteen (18) years of age who has voluntarily agreed to assist**  
 13 **an adult in the decision making process as outlined in the adult's**  
 14 **supported decision making agreement.**

15 **Sec. 4. (a) An adult may not enter into a supported decision**  
 16 **making agreement unless the adult:**

17 (1) enters into the agreement voluntarily and without coercion  
 18 or undue influence; and

19 (2) understands the nature and effect of the agreement.

20 (b) An adult may make, change, or revoke a supported decision  
 21 making agreement even if the adult does not have the capacity to  
 22 independently manage the adult's own health care, legal matters,  
 23 or financial affairs.

24 (c) A court may not consider an adult's execution of a supported  
 25 decision making agreement as evidence of incapacity. The existence  
 26 of an executed supported decision making agreement does not  
 27 preclude the adult from acting independently of the supported  
 28 decision making agreement.

29 (d) An adult may not enter into a supported decision making  
 30 agreement under this section if the agreement supplants the  
 31 authority of a guardian of the adult, unless the guardian consents  
 32 in writing to the adult entering into the supported decision making  
 33 agreement.

34 **Sec. 5. (a) A supporter must:**

35 (1) support the will and preference of the adult, and not the  
 36 supporter's opinion of the adult's best interests;

37 (2) act honestly, diligently, and in good faith;

38 (3) act within the scope set forth in the adult's supported  
 39 decision making agreement;

40 (4) avoid conflicts of interest; and

41 (5) notify the adult in writing of the supporter's intent to  
 42 resign as a supporter.





1           **(b) The relationship between an adult and a supporter is one of**  
 2 **trust and confidence, and serves to preserve the decision making**  
 3 **authority of the adult.**

4           **(c) A supporter is prohibited from:**

- 5           **(1) exerting undue influence upon the adult;**  
 6           **(2) receiving a fee for service related solely to services**  
 7           **performed in the role of supporter;**  
 8           **(3) obtaining, without the consent of the adult, information**  
 9           **acquired for a purpose other than assisting the adult in**  
 10           **making a specific decision authorized by the supported**  
 11           **decision making agreement;**  
 12           **(4) acting outside the scope of authority provided in the**  
 13           **supported decision making agreement; or**  
 14           **(5) obtaining, without the consent of the adult, nonpublic**  
 15           **personal information as defined in 15 U.S.C. 6809(4)(A).**

16           **(d) A supporter who is expressly given relevant authority in a**  
 17 **power of attorney may act within the scope of that authority to sign**  
 18 **instructions or other documents on behalf of the adult, in order to**  
 19 **communicate or implement decisions by the adult.**

20           **Sec. 6. A request or decision made or communicated with the**  
 21 **assistance of a supporter in conformity with this chapter shall be**  
 22 **recognized as the request or decision of the adult for the purposes**  
 23 **of any provision of law.**

24           **Sec. 7. (a) A supported decision making agreement must:**

- 25           **(1) name at least one (1) supporter;**  
 26           **(2) describe the decision making assistance that each**  
 27           **supporter may provide to the adult and how supporters may**  
 28           **work together; and**  
 29           **(3) if appropriate, be executed by the adult's guardian.**

30           **(b) A supported decision making agreement may:**

- 31           **(1) appoint more than one (1) supporter;**  
 32           **(2) appoint an alternate to act in the place of a supporter**  
 33           **under circumstances specified in the agreement; or**  
 34           **(3) authorize a supporter to share information with any other**  
 35           **supporter or others named in the agreement.**

36           **(c) A supported decision making agreement must be:**

- 37           **(1) in writing;**  
 38           **(2) dated; and**  
 39           **(3) signed by the adult in the presence of a notary.**

40           **(d) A supported decision making agreement must contain a**  
 41 **separate consent signed by each supporter named in the agreement**  
 42 **indicating the supporter's:**



- 1 (1) relationship to the adult;
- 2 (2) willingness to act as a supporter; and
- 3 (3) acknowledgment of the duties of a supporter.

4 (e) An adult who meets the requirements to enter into a  
 5 supported decision making agreement under section 4 of this  
 6 chapter may sign a supported decision making agreement in any  
 7 manner, including electronic signature, permitted under  
 8 IC 30-5-4-1(5) or IC 30-5-11-4(a).

9 Sec. 8. An adult may revoke a supported decision making  
 10 agreement at any time. A revocation under this section must be in  
 11 writing, and a copy of the revocation must be provided to each  
 12 supporter.

13 Sec. 9. (a) Except as provided in the supported decision making  
 14 agreement, a supported decision making agreement terminates in  
 15 the following situations:

16 (1) The adult subject of the supported decision making  
 17 agreement dies.

18 (2) The adult subject of the supported decision making  
 19 agreement revokes the agreement under section 8 of this  
 20 chapter.

21 (3) The named supporters withdraw their participation  
 22 without naming successor supporters.

23 (4) A court of competent jurisdiction determines that the  
 24 adult does not have capacity to execute or consent to a  
 25 supported decision making agreement.

26 (5) A court of competent jurisdiction determines that a  
 27 supporter has used the supported decision making agreement  
 28 to commit:

- 29 (A) financial exploitation;
- 30 (B) abuse; or
- 31 (C) neglect;

32 of the adult.

33 (6) A court of competent jurisdiction appoints a temporary or  
 34 permanent guardian for the person or property of the adult,  
 35 unless the court's order of appointment:

- 36 (A) expressly modifies but continues the supported decision  
 37 making agreement; and
- 38 (B) limits the powers and duties of the guardian.

39 (7) The adult signs a valid durable power of attorney, except  
 40 to the extent that the power of attorney expressly continues,  
 41 in whole or in part, the supported decision making agreement.

42 (b) The court may enter an order under subsection (a)(4), (a)(5),



1 and (a)(6) only after notice and a hearing to the adult and all  
2 supporters named in the agreement.

3 **Sec. 10.** A supported decision making agreement that complies  
4 with section 7 of this chapter is presumed valid. A party may rely  
5 on the presumption of validity unless the party has actual  
6 knowledge that the supported decision making agreement was not  
7 validly executed.

8 **Sec. 11. (a)** Except as provided in subsection (c), a person who,  
9 in good faith, relies on an authorization in a supported decision  
10 making agreement or who, in good faith, declines to honor an  
11 authorization in a supported decision making agreement is not  
12 subject to civil or criminal liability or to discipline for  
13 unprofessional conduct.

14 **(b)** Except as provided in subsection (c), a supporter who  
15 performs supported decision making in good faith as specified in  
16 a supported decision making agreement is immune from civil or  
17 criminal liability resulting from the adult's decision.

18 **(c)** This section does not apply to a person whose act or omission  
19 amounts to fraud, misrepresentation, recklessness, or willful or  
20 wanton misconduct.

21 **Sec. 12.** The meaning and effect of a supported decision making  
22 agreement is determined by the law of the jurisdiction in which the  
23 supported decision making agreement was executed, unless the  
24 supported decision making agreement provides otherwise.

25 **Sec. 13.** A person who:

26 (1) receives a copy of a supported decision making agreement;  
27 or

28 (2) is aware of the existence of a supported decision making  
29 agreement;

30 and reasonably believes that an adult is being abused, neglected, or  
31 exploited must report the alleged abuse, neglect, or exploitation to  
32 adult protective services or another authorized law enforcement  
33 agency.

34 SECTION 5. IC 34-30-2-126.8 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA  
35 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
36 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2019]: **Sec. 126.8. IC 29-3-14-11 (Concerning**  
37 **supported decision making agreements).**



## COMMITTEE REPORT

Madam President: The Senate Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 380, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the Senate with the recommendation that said bill be AMENDED as follows:

Page 1, line 14, delete "appointment" and insert "**creation**".

Page 6, line 21, delete "to:" and insert "**to**".

Page 6, delete line 22.

Page 6, line 23, delete "(2)".

Page 6, line 23, after "adult's" insert "**own**".

Page 6, run in lines 21 through 24.

Page 6, delete lines 25 through 28.

Page 6, line 29, delete "(d)" and insert "**(c)**".

Page 6, line 34, delete "(e)" and insert "**(d)**".

Page 7, line 16, delete "or".

Page 7, line 18, delete "agreement." and insert "**agreement; or (5) obtaining, without the consent of the adult, nonpublic personal information as defined in 15 U.S.C. 6809(4)(A).**".

Page 7, line 19, delete "is not a surrogate decision maker for the adult" and insert "**who is expressly given relevant authority in a power of attorney may act within the scope of that authority to sign instructions or other documents on behalf of the adult, in order to communicate or implement decisions by the adult.**".

Page 7, delete lines 20 through 22.

Page 8, between lines 6 and 7, begin a new paragraph and insert:

**"(e) An adult who meets the requirements to enter into a supported decision making agreement under section 4 of this chapter may sign a supported decision making agreement in any manner, including electronic signature, permitted under IC 30-5-4-1(5) or IC 30-5-11-4(a)."**

Page 8, line 11, after "9." insert "**(a)**".

Page 8, between lines 23 and 24, begin a new line block indented and insert:

**"(5) A court of competent jurisdiction determines that a supporter has used the supported decision making agreement to commit:**

**(A) financial exploitation;**

**(B) abuse; or**

**(C) neglect;**

**of the adult.**

**(6) A court of competent jurisdiction appoints a temporary or**



**permanent guardian for the person or property of the adult, unless the court's order of appointment:**

**(A) expressly modifies but continues the supported decision making agreement; and**

**(B) limits the powers and duties of the guardian.**

**(7) The adult signs a valid durable power of attorney, except to the extent that the power of attorney expressly continues, in whole or in part, the supported decision making agreement.**

**(b) The court may enter an order under subsection (a)(4), (a)(5), and (a)(6) only after notice and a hearing to the adult and all supporters named in the agreement."**

Page 8, line 40, delete "gross negligence," and insert "recklessness,".

Page 9, delete lines 13 through 17.

and when so amended that said bill do pass.

(Reference is to SB 380 as introduced.)

HEAD, Chairperson

Committee Vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0.

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COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Speaker: Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred Senate Bill 380, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the House with the recommendation that said bill do pass.

(Reference is to SB 380 as printed February 22, 2019.)

TORR

Committee Vote: Yeas 12, Nays 0

