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OFFICE WEST VIRGINIA  
SECRETARY OF STATE

**WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 2012



**ENROLLED**

**COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR**

**House Bill No. 4390**

(By Delegates Doyle, Rodighiero, Ferro, Frazier,  
Reynolds, Storch and Walters)



Passed March 10, 2012

To Take Effect Ninety Days From Passage

HB 4390

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FRAZIER, REYNOLDS, STORCH AND WALTERS)

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[Passed March 10, 2012; to take effect ninety days from passage.]

AN ACT to repeal §39-4-1, §39-4-2, §39-4-3, §39-4-4, §39-4-5, §39-4-6 and §39-4-7 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; to amend said code by adding thereto a new chapter, designated §39B-1-101, §39B-1-102, §39B-1-103, §39B-1-104, §39B-1-105, §39B-1-106, §39B-1-107, §39B-1-108, §39B-1-109, §39B-1-110, §39B-1-111, §39B-1-112, §39B-1-113, §39B-1-114, §39B-1-115, §39B-1-116, §39B-1-117, §39B-1-118, §39B-1-119, §39B-1-120, §39B-1-121, §39B-1-122, §39B-1-123, §39B-2-101, §39B-2-102, §39B-2-103, §39B-2-104, §39B-2-105, §39B-2-106, §39B-2-107, §39B-2-108, §39B-2-109, §39B-2-110, §39B-2-111, §39B-2-112, §39B-2-113, §39B-2-114, §39B-2-115, §39B-2-116, §39B-2-117, §39B-3-101 §39B-3-102, §39B-4-101, §39B-4-102, and §39B-4-103; and to amend and reenact §44A-3-3 of said code, all relating to repealing the Uniform Durable Power of Attorney Act and adopting the Uniform Power of Attorney Act; declaring the state law of the state where the power of attorney is executed to be controlling;

providing a short title; providing definitions; setting forth the applicability of the act; providing that the power of attorney is durable; requiring the power of attorney to be acknowledged before a notary public or other individual authorized by law to take acknowledgments; providing for execution, validity and meaning and effect of power of attorney; nominating conservator or guardian and relation of agent to court-appointed fiduciary; providing when power of attorney effective; terminating power of attorney or agent's authority; providing for coagents and successor agents and their liability; reimbursing and compensating agent, exception; providing for agent's acceptance of appointment and agent's duties; exonerating agent in power of attorney, exceptions; providing certain persons judicial relief to construe a power of attorney or review an agent's conduct; providing for agent's liability in certain monetary amounts; providing for resignation of agent; accepting and relying upon acknowledged power of attorney and for what a request may be made before accepting the power of attorney; providing for liability for refusing to accept an acknowledged statutory form power of attorney; declaring that principles of law and equity supplement the act; providing that laws applicable to financial institutions and entities supercede this act; declaring remedies under the act are not exclusive; granting specific and general authority under the power of attorney; providing for granting general authority of the agent under a power of attorney which incorporates by reference a subject matter involving real property, tangible personal property, stocks and bonds, commodities and options, financial institutions, operation of an entity or business, insurance and annuities, estates, trusts and other beneficial interests, claims and litigation, personal and family maintenance, benefits from governmental programs or civil or military service, retirement plans, taxes and gifts; providing a statutory form power of attorney form; providing miscellaneous provisions relating to uniformity of application and construction and relating to electronic signatures in the Global and National Commerce

Act; providing application of act on existing powers of attorney; and removing provision in the West Virginia Guardianship and Conservatorship Act that a conservator may not revoke or amend a durable power of attorney without approval of the court to avoid a conflict.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

That §39-4-1, §39-4-2, §39-4-3, §39-4-4, §39-4-5, §39-4-6 and §39-4-7 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be repealed; that said code be amended by adding thereto a new chapter, designated §39B-1-101, §39B-1-102, §39B-1-103, §39B-1-104, §39B-1-105, §39B-1-106, §39B-1-107, §39B-1-108, §39B-1-109, §39B-1-110, §39B-1-111, §39B-1-112, §39B-1-113, §39B-1-114, §39B-1-115, §39B-1-116, §39B-1-117, §39B-1-118, §39B-1-119, §39B-1-120, §39B-1-121, §39B-1-122 §39B-1-123, §39B-2-101, §39B-2-102, §39B-2-103, §39B-2-104, §39B-2-105, §39B-2-106, §39B-2-107, §39B-2-108, §39B-2-109, §39B-2-110, §39B-2-111, §39B-2-112, §39B-2-113, §39B-2-114, §39B-2-115, §39B-2-116, §39B-2-117, §39B-3-101, §39B-3-102, §39B-4-101, §39B-4-102, and §39B-4-103; and that §44A-3-3 of said code be amended and reenacted, all to read as follows:

## **CHAPTER 39B. UNIFORM POWER OF ATTORNEY ACT.**

### **ARTICLE 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS.**

#### **§39B-1-101. Short title.**

- 1 This chapter may be cited as the Uniform Power of
- 2 Attorney Act, and is cited in this chapter as “this act”.

#### **§39B-1-102. Definitions.**

- 1 In this act:

2 (1) "Agent" means a person granted authority to act for  
3 a principal under a power of attorney, whether denominated  
4 an agent, attorney-in-fact or otherwise. The term includes an  
5 original agent, coagent, successor agent and a person to  
6 which an agent's authority is delegated.

7 (2) "Durable," with respect to a power of attorney means  
8 not terminated by the principal's incapacity.

9 (3) "Electronic" means relating to technology having  
10 electrical, digital, magnetic, wireless, optical, electromagnetic  
11 or similar capabilities.

12 (4) "Good faith" means honesty in fact.

13 (5) "Incapacity" means inability of an individual to  
14 manage property or business affairs because the individual:

15 (A) Has an impairment in the ability to receive and  
16 evaluate information or make or communicate decisions even  
17 with the use of technological assistance; or

18 (B) Is:

19 (i) Detained, including incarcerated in a penal system;  
20 or

21 (ii) Outside the United States and unable to return.

22 (6) "Person" means an individual, corporation, business  
23 trust, estate, trust, partnership, limited liability company,  
24 association, joint venture, public corporation, government or  
25 governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality or any  
26 other legal or commercial entity.

27 (7) "Power of attorney" means a writing or other record  
28 that grants authority to an agent to act in the place of the  
29 principal, whether or not the term power of attorney is used.

30 (8) "Presently exercisable general power of  
31 appointment," with respect to property or a property interest  
32 subject to a power of appointment, means power exercisable  
33 at the time in question to vest absolute ownership in the  
34 principal individually, the principal's estate, the principal's  
35 creditors or the creditors of the principal's estate. The term  
36 includes a power of appointment not exercisable until the  
37 occurrence of a specified event, the satisfaction of an  
38 ascertainable standard, or the passage of a specified period  
39 only after the occurrence of the specified event, the  
40 satisfaction of the ascertainable standard or the passage of the  
41 specified period. The term does not include a power  
42 exercisable in a fiduciary capacity or only by will.

43 (9) "Principal" means an individual who grants authority  
44 to an agent in a power of attorney.

45 (10) "Property" means anything that may be the subject  
46 of ownership, whether real or personal, or legal or equitable  
47 or any interest or right therein.

48 (11) "Record" means information that is inscribed on a  
49 tangible medium or that is stored in an electronic or other  
50 medium and is retrievable in perceivable form.

51 (12) "Sign" means, with present intent to authenticate or  
52 adopt a record:

53 (A) To execute or adopt a tangible symbol; or

54 (B) To attach to or logically associate with the record an  
55 electronic sound, symbol or process.

56 (13) "State" means a state of the United States, the  
57 District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin  
58 Islands or any territory or insular possession subject to the  
59 jurisdiction of the United States.

60 (14) "Stocks and bonds" means stocks, bonds, mutual  
61 funds and all other types of securities and financial  
62 instruments, whether held directly, indirectly or in any other  
63 manner. The term does not include commodity futures  
64 contracts and call or put options on stocks or stock indexes.

**§39B-1-103. Applicability.**

1 This act applies to all powers of attorney except:

2 (1) A power to the extent it is coupled with an interest  
3 in the subject of the power, including a power given to or  
4 for the benefit of a creditor in connection with a credit  
5 transaction;

6 (2) A power to make health-care decisions;

7 (3) A proxy or other delegation to exercise voting rights  
8 or management rights with respect to an entity; and

9 (4) A power created on a form prescribed by a  
10 government or governmental subdivision, agency or  
11 instrumentality for a governmental purpose.

**§39B-1-104. Power of attorney is durable.**

1 A power of attorney created under this act is durable  
2 unless it expressly provides that it is terminated by the  
3 incapacity of the principal.

**§39B-1-105. Execution of power of attorney.**

1 A power of attorney must be signed by the principal or in  
2 the principal's conscious presence by another individual  
3 directed by the principal to sign the principal's name on the  
4 power of attorney and must be acknowledged by the principal  
5 before a notary public or other individual authorized by law  
6 to take acknowledgments.

**§39B-1-106. Validity of power of attorney.**

1 (a) A power of attorney executed in this state on or after  
2 the effective date of this act, is valid if its execution complies  
3 with section one hundred five of this article.

4 (b) A power of attorney executed in this state before the  
5 effective date of this act, is valid if its execution complied  
6 with the law of this state as it existed at the time of  
7 execution.

8 (c) A power of attorney executed other than in this state  
9 is valid in this state if, when the power of attorney was  
10 executed, the execution complied with:

11 (1) The law of the jurisdiction that determines the  
12 meaning and effect of the power of attorney pursuant to  
13 section one hundred seven of this article; or

14 (2) The requirements for a military power of attorney  
15 pursuant to 10 U. S. C. §1044b.

16 (d) Except as otherwise provided by statute other than  
17 this act, a photocopy or electronically transmitted copy of an  
18 original power of attorney has the same effect as the original.



**§39B-1-107. Meaning and effect of power of attorney.**

1           The meaning and effect of a power of attorney is  
2 determined by the law of the jurisdiction indicated in the  
3 power of attorney and, in the absence of an indication of  
4 jurisdiction, by the law of the jurisdiction in which the power  
5 of attorney was executed.

**§39B-1-108. Nomination of conservator or guardian; relation of agent to court-appointed fiduciary.**

1           (a) In a power of attorney, a principal may nominate a  
2 conservator of the principal's estate or guardian of the  
3 principal's person for consideration by the court if protective  
4 proceedings for the principal's estate or person are begun  
5 after the principal executes the power of attorney. In the  
6 protective proceedings the court shall consider the  
7 nomination in accordance with the provisions of section  
8 eight, article two, chapter forty-four-a of this code.

9           (b) If, after a principal executes a power of attorney, a  
10 court appoints a conservator of the principal's estate or other  
11 fiduciary charged with the management of some or all of the  
12 principal's property, the agent is accountable to the fiduciary  
13 as well as to the principal. Unless otherwise ordered by the  
14 court making the appointment, the power of attorney and the  
15 agent's authority thereunder terminates upon the  
16 appointment.

**§39B-1-109. When power of attorney effective.**

1           (a) A power of attorney is effective when executed unless  
2 the principal provides in the power of attorney that it  
3 becomes effective at a future date or upon the occurrence of  
4 a future event or contingency.

5 (b) If a power of attorney becomes effective upon the  
6 occurrence of a future event or contingency, the principal, in  
7 the power of attorney, may authorize one or more persons to  
8 determine in a writing or other record that the event or  
9 contingency has occurred.

10 (c) If a power of attorney becomes effective upon the  
11 principal's incapacity and the principal has not authorized a  
12 person to determine whether the principal is incapacitated, or  
13 the person authorized is unable or unwilling to make the  
14 determination, the power of attorney becomes effective upon  
15 a determination in a writing or other record by:

16 (1) A physician or licensed psychologist that the principal  
17 is incapacitated within the meaning of section one hundred  
18 two (5)(A) of this article; or

19 (2) An attorney at law, a judge or an appropriate  
20 governmental official that the principal is incapacitated  
21 within the meaning of section one hundred two (5)(B) of this  
22 article.

23 (d) A person authorized by the principal in the power of  
24 attorney to determine that the principal is incapacitated may  
25 act as the principal's personal representative pursuant to the  
26 Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, §1171  
27 through §1179 of the Social Security Act, 42 U. S. C.  
28 §1320d, and applicable regulations, to obtain access to the  
29 principal's health-care information and communicate with the  
30 principal's health-care provider.

**§39B-1-110. Termination of power of attorney or agent's  
authority.**

1 (a) A power of attorney terminates when:

2 (1) The principal dies;

3 (2) The principal becomes incapacitated, if the power of  
4 attorney is not durable;

5 (3) The principal revokes the power of attorney;

6 (4) The power of attorney provides that it terminates;

7 (5) The purpose of the power of attorney is accomplished;  
8 or

9 (6) The principal revokes the agent's authority or the  
10 agent dies, becomes incapacitated, or resigns, and the power  
11 of attorney does not provide for another agent to act under  
12 the power of attorney.

13 (b) An agent's authority terminates when:

14 (1) The principal revokes the authority;

15 (2) The agent dies, becomes incapacitated, or resigns;

16 (3) An action is filed for the dissolution or annulment of  
17 the agent's marriage to the principal or their legal separation,  
18 unless the power of attorney otherwise provides; or

19 (4) The power of attorney terminates.

20 (c) Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides, an  
21 agent's authority is exercisable until the authority terminates  
22 pursuant to this section, notwithstanding a lapse of time since  
23 the execution of the power of attorney.

24 (d) Termination of an agent's authority or of a power of  
25 attorney is not effective as to the agent or another person that,

26 without actual knowledge of the termination, acts in good  
27 faith under the power of attorney. An act so performed,  
28 unless otherwise invalid or unenforceable, binds the principal  
29 and the principal's successors in interest.

30 (e) Incapacity of the principal of a power of attorney that  
31 is not durable does not revoke or terminate the power of  
32 attorney as to an agent or other person who, without actual  
33 knowledge of the incapacity, acts in good faith under the  
34 power of attorney. An act so performed, unless otherwise  
35 invalid or unenforceable, binds the principal and the  
36 principal's successors in interest.

37 (f) The execution of a power of attorney does not revoke  
38 a power of attorney previously executed by the principal  
39 unless the subsequent power of attorney provides that the  
40 previous power of attorney is revoked or that all other powers  
41 of attorney are revoked.

**§39B-1-111. Coagents and successor agents.**

1 (a) A principal may designate two or more persons to act  
2 as coagents. Unless the power of attorney otherwise  
3 provides, each coagent may exercise his or her authority  
4 independently and the consent of all coagents is not necessary  
5 for the validity of an act or transaction.

6 (b) A principal may designate one or more successor  
7 agents to act if an agent resigns, dies, becomes incapacitated,  
8 is not qualified to serve, or declines to serve. A principal  
9 may grant authority to designate one or more successor  
10 agents to an agent or other person designated by name, office  
11 or function. Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides,  
12 a successor agent:

13 (1) Has the same authority as that granted to the original  
14 agent; and

15 (2) May not act until all predecessor agents have  
16 resigned, died, become incapacitated, are no longer qualified  
17 to serve, or have declined to serve.

18 (c) Except as otherwise provided in the power of attorney and  
19 this act, an agent who does not participate in or conceal a breach  
20 of fiduciary duty committed by another agent, including a  
21 predecessor agent, is not liable for the actions of the other agent.

22 (d) An agent who has actual knowledge of a breach or  
23 imminent breach of fiduciary duty by another agent has a  
24 duty to notify the principal and, if the principal is  
25 incapacitated, take any action reasonably appropriate in the  
26 circumstances to safeguard the principal's best interest. An  
27 agent who fails to notify the principal or take action as  
28 required by this article is liable for the reasonably foreseeable  
29 damages that could have been avoided if the agent had  
30 notified the principal or taken such action.

**§39B-1-112. Reimbursement and compensation of agent.**

1 Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides, an agent  
2 is entitled to reimbursement of expenses reasonably incurred on  
3 behalf of the principal and to compensation that is reasonable  
4 under the circumstances: *Provided*, That an agent who is related  
5 to the principal as an ancestor, spouse or descendent is not  
6 entitled to compensation for services as agent, unless the power  
7 of attorney specifically provides for compensation.

**§39B-1-113. Agent's acceptance.**

1 Except as otherwise provided in the power of attorney, a  
2 person accepts appointment as an agent under a power of

3 attorney by exercising authority or performing duties as an  
4 agent or by any other assertion or conduct indicating  
5 acceptance.

**§39B-1-114. Agent's duties.**

1 (a) Notwithstanding provisions in the power of attorney,  
2 an agent who has accepted appointment shall:

3 (1) Act in accordance with the principal's reasonable  
4 expectations to the extent actually known by the agent and,  
5 otherwise, in the principal's best interest;

6 (2) Act in good faith; and

7 (3) Act only within the scope of authority granted in the  
8 power of attorney.

9 (b) Except as otherwise provided in the power of  
10 attorney, an agent who has accepted appointment shall:

11 (1) Act loyally for the principal's benefit;

12 (2) Act so as not to create a conflict of interest that  
13 impairs the agent's ability to act impartially in the principal's  
14 best interest;

15 (3) Act with the care, competence and diligence  
16 ordinarily exercised by agents in similar circumstances;

17 (4) Keep a record of all receipts, disbursements and  
18 transactions made on behalf of the principal;

19 (5) Cooperate with a person that has authority to make  
20 health-care decisions for the principal to carry out the  
21 principal's reasonable expectations to the extent actually

22 known by the agent and, otherwise, act in the principal's best  
23 interest; and

24 (6) Attempt to preserve the principal's estate plan, to the  
25 extent actually known by the agent, if preserving the plan is  
26 consistent with the principal's best interest based on all  
27 relevant factors, including:

28 (A) The value and nature of the principal's property;

29 (B) The principal's foreseeable obligations and need for  
30 maintenance;

31 (C) Minimization of taxes, including income, estate,  
32 inheritance, generation-skipping transfer and gift taxes; and

33 (D) Eligibility for a benefit, a program or assistance  
34 under a statute or regulation.

35 (c) An agent that acts in good faith is not liable to any  
36 beneficiary of the principal's estate plan for failure to  
37 preserve the plan.

38 (d) An agent that acts with care, competence and  
39 diligence for the best interest of the principal is not liable  
40 solely because the agent also benefits from the act or has an  
41 individual or conflicting interest in relation to the property or  
42 affairs of the principal.

43 (e) If an agent is selected by the principal because of  
44 special skills or expertise possessed by the agent or in  
45 reliance on the agent's representation that the agent has  
46 special skills or expertise, the special skills or expertise must  
47 be considered in determining whether the agent has acted  
48 with care, competence and diligence under the circumstances.

49 (f) Absent a breach of duty to the principal, an agent is  
50 not liable if the value of the principal's property declines.

51 (g) An agent who exercises authority to delegate to  
52 another person the authority granted by the principal or who  
53 engages another person on behalf of the principal is not liable  
54 for an act, error of judgment or default of that person if the  
55 agent exercises care, competence and diligence in selecting  
56 and monitoring the person.

57 (h) Except as otherwise provided in the power of  
58 attorney, an agent is not required to disclose receipts,  
59 disbursements or transactions conducted on behalf of the  
60 principal or provide an accounting unless: ordered by a court  
61 or requested by the principal, a guardian, a conservator,  
62 another fiduciary acting for the principal, a governmental  
63 agency having authority to protect the welfare of the principal  
64 or, upon the death of the principal, by the personal  
65 representative or successor in interest of the principal's  
66 estate. If so requested, within thirty days the agent shall  
67 comply with the request or provide a writing or other record  
68 substantiating why additional time is needed and shall  
69 comply with the request within an additional thirty days. If  
70 an agent fails or refuses to comply with the provisions of this  
71 section, the court may award the principal or other authorized  
72 party requesting the disclosure reimbursement of reasonable  
73 attorneys fees and costs incurred.

**§39B-1-115. Exoneration of agent.**

1 (a) A provision in a power of attorney relieving an agent of  
2 liability for breach of duty is binding on the principal and the  
3 principal's successors in interest except to the extent the provision:

4 (1) Relieves the agent of liability for breach of duty  
5 committed dishonestly, with an improper motive or with



6 reckless indifference to the purposes of the power of attorney  
7 or the best interest of the principal; or

8 (2) Was inserted as a result of an abuse of a confidential  
9 or fiduciary relationship with the principal.

**§39B-1-116. Judicial relief.**

1 (a) The following persons may petition a court to  
2 construe a power of attorney or review the agent's conduct  
3 and grant appropriate relief:

4 (1) The principal or the agent;

5 (2) A guardian, conservator or other fiduciary acting for  
6 the principal;

7 (3) A person authorized to make health-care decisions for  
8 the principal;

9 (4) The principal's spouse, parent or descendant;

10 (5) An individual who would qualify as a presumptive  
11 heir of the principal;

12 (6) A person named as a beneficiary to receive any  
13 property, benefit or contractual right on the principal's death  
14 or as a beneficiary of a trust created by or for the principal  
15 that has a financial interest in the principal's estate;

16 (7) A governmental agency having regulatory authority  
17 to protect the welfare of the principal;

18 (8) The principal's caregiver or another person that  
19 demonstrates sufficient interest in the principal's welfare; and

20 (9) A person asked to accept the power of attorney.

21 (b) Upon motion by the principal, the court shall dismiss  
22 a petition filed under this section, unless the court finds that  
23 the principal lacks capacity to revoke the agent's authority or  
24 the power of attorney.

**§39B-1-117. Agent's liability.**

1 (a) An agent that violates this act is liable to the principal  
2 or the principal's successors in interest for the amount  
3 required to:

4 (1) Restore the value of the principal's property to what  
5 it would have been had the violation not occurred;

6 (2) Reimburse the principal or the principal's successors  
7 in interest for the attorney's fees and costs paid on the agent's  
8 behalf out of the principal's assets;

9 (3) Reimburse the reasonable attorneys fees and costs  
10 incurred by the principal or the principal's successors in interest  
11 in pursuing rectification of the violation by the agent; and

12 (4) Pay such other amounts, damages, costs or expenses  
13 as the court may award.

**§39B-1-118. Agent's resignation; notice.**

1 (a) Unless the power of attorney provides a different  
2 method for an agent's resignation, an agent may resign by  
3 giving notice to the principal and, if the principal is  
4 incapacitated:

5 (1) To the conservator or guardian, if one has been appointed  
6 for the principal, and a coagent or successor agent; or

7 (2) If there is no person described in paragraph (1), to:

8 (A) The principal's caregiver;

9 (B) Another person reasonably believed by the agent to  
10 have sufficient interest in the principal's welfare; or

11 (C) A governmental agency having authority to protect  
12 the welfare of the principal.

**§39B-1-119. Acceptance of and reliance upon acknowledged  
power of attorney.**

1 (a) For purposes of this section and section one hundred  
2 five of this article, "acknowledged" means purportedly  
3 verified before a notary public or other individual authorized  
4 to take acknowledgments.

5 (b) A person who in good faith accepts an acknowledged  
6 power of attorney without actual knowledge that the  
7 signature is not genuine may rely upon the presumption under  
8 the provisions of section one hundred five of this article that  
9 the signature is genuine.

10 (c) A person who in good faith accepts an acknowledged  
11 power of attorney without actual knowledge that the power  
12 of attorney is void, invalid or terminated, that the purported  
13 agent's authority is void, invalid or terminated, or that the  
14 agent is exceeding or improperly exercising the agent's  
15 authority may rely upon the power of attorney as if the power  
16 of attorney were genuine, valid and still in effect, the agent's  
17 authority were genuine, valid and still in effect, and the agent  
18 had not exceeded and had properly exercised the authority  
19 except as to a conveyance of interests in real property where  
20 the principal has previously filed a notice of termination of

21 the power of attorney in the office of the clerk of the county  
22 commission in the county in which the property is located.

23 (d) A person who is asked to accept an acknowledged  
24 power of attorney may request, and rely upon, without further  
25 investigation:

26 (1) An agent's certification under penalty of perjury of any  
27 factual matter concerning the principal, agent or power of attorney;

28 (2) An English translation of the power of attorney if the  
29 power of attorney contains, in whole or in part, language  
30 other than English; and

31 (3) An opinion of counsel as to any matter of law concerning  
32 the power of attorney if the person making the request provides in  
33 a writing or other record the reason for the request.

34 (e) An English translation or an opinion of counsel  
35 requested under this section must be provided at the  
36 principal's expense unless the request is made more than  
37 seven business days after the power of attorney is presented  
38 for acceptance.

39 (f) For purposes of this section and the act, a person who  
40 conducts activities through employees is without actual  
41 knowledge of a fact relating to a power of attorney, a  
42 principal or an agent if the employee conducting the  
43 transaction involving the power of attorney is without actual  
44 knowledge of the fact.

**§39B-1-120. Liability for refusal to accept acknowledged  
statutory form power of attorney.**

1 (a) In this section, "statutory form power of attorney"  
2 means a power of attorney substantially in the form provided

3 in this act or that meets the requirements for a military power  
4 of attorney pursuant to 10 U. S. C. §1044b.

5 (b) Except as otherwise provided in this section:

6 (1) A person shall either accept an acknowledged  
7 statutory form power of attorney or request a certification, a  
8 translation or an opinion of counsel under section one  
9 hundred nineteen subsection (d) of this article no later than  
10 seven business days after presentation of the power of  
11 attorney for acceptance;

12 (2) If a person requests a certification, a translation, or an  
13 opinion of counsel under section one hundred nineteen  
14 subsection (d) of this article, the person shall accept the  
15 statutory form power of attorney no later than five business  
16 days after receipt of the certification, translation or opinion of  
17 counsel; and

18 (3) A person may not require an additional or different  
19 form of power of attorney for authority granted in the  
20 statutory form power of attorney presented.

21 (c) A person is not required to accept an acknowledged  
22 statutory form power of attorney if:

23 (1) The person is not otherwise required to engage in a  
24 transaction with the principal in the same circumstances;

25 (2) Engaging in a transaction with the agent or the  
26 principal in the same circumstances would be inconsistent  
27 with federal law;

28 (3) The person has actual knowledge of the termination  
29 of the agent's authority or of the power of attorney before  
30 exercise of the power;

31 (4) A request for a certification, a translation, or an  
32 opinion of counsel under section one hundred nineteen  
33 subsection (d) of this article is not timely provided;

34 (5) The person in good faith believes that the power is not  
35 valid or that the agent does not have the authority to perform the  
36 act requested, whether or not a certification, a translation or an  
37 opinion of counsel under section one hundred nineteen  
38 subsection (d) of this article has been requested or provided; or

39 (6) The person makes, or has actual knowledge that  
40 another person has made, a report to the local adult protective  
41 services agency stating a good faith belief that the principal  
42 may be subject to physical or financial abuse, neglect,  
43 exploitation or abandonment by the agent or a person acting  
44 for or with the agent.

45 (d) A person who refuses in violation of this section to  
46 accept an acknowledged statutory form power of attorney is  
47 subject to a court order mandating acceptance of the power of  
48 attorney. The court may at its discretion award to the  
49 principal or the principal's agent reasonable attorney's fees  
50 and costs incurred in any action or proceeding that confirms  
51 the validity of the power of attorney or mandates acceptance  
52 of the power of attorney.

**§39B-1-121. Principles of law and equity.**

1 Unless displaced by a provision of this act, the principles  
2 of law and equity supplement this act.

**§39B-1-122. Laws applicable to financial institutions and entities.**

1 This act does not supersede any other law applicable to  
2 financial institutions or other entities, and the other law  
3 controls if inconsistent with this act.

**§39B-1-123. Remedies under other law.**

1           The remedies under this act are not exclusive and do not  
2   abrogate any right or remedy under the law of this state other  
3   than this act.

**ARTICLE 2. AUTHORITY.**

**§39B-2-101. Authority that requires specific grant; grant of  
general authority.**

1           (a) An agent under a power of attorney may do the  
2   following on behalf of the principal or with the principal's  
3   property only if the power of attorney expressly grants the  
4   agent the authority and exercise of the authority is not  
5   otherwise prohibited by another agreement or instrument to  
6   which the authority or property is subject to:

7           (1) Create, amend, revoke or terminate an inter vivos  
8   trust;

9           (2) Make a gift;

10          (3) Create or change rights of survivorship;

11          (4) Create or change a beneficiary designation;

12          (5) Delegate authority granted under the power of  
13   attorney;

14          (6) Waive the principal's right to be a beneficiary of a  
15   joint and survivor annuity, including a survivor benefit under  
16   a retirement plan;

17          (7) Exercise fiduciary powers that the principal has  
18   authority to delegate; or

19 (8) Disclaim property, including a power of appointment.

20 (b) Notwithstanding a grant of authority to do an act  
21 described in this section, unless the power of attorney  
22 otherwise provides, an agent that is not an ancestor, spouse  
23 or descendant of the principal may not exercise authority  
24 under a power of attorney to create in the agent, or in an  
25 individual to whom the agent owes a legal obligation of  
26 support, an interest in the principal's property, whether by  
27 gift, right of survivorship, beneficiary designation, disclaimer  
28 or otherwise.

29 (c) Subject to subsections (a), (b), (d) and (e) of this  
30 section, if a power of attorney grants to an agent authority to  
31 do all acts that a principal could do, the agent has the general  
32 authority described in section one hundred four through  
33 section one hundred sixteen of this article.

34 (d) Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides, a  
35 grant of authority to make a gift is subject to the provisions  
36 of section one hundred seventeen of this article.

37 (e) Subject to subsections (a), (b) and (d) of this section,  
38 if the subjects over which authority is granted in a power of  
39 attorney are similar or overlap, the broadest authority  
40 controls.

41 (f) Authority granted in a power of attorney is exercisable  
42 with respect to property that the principal has when the power  
43 of attorney is executed or acquires later, whether or not the  
44 property is located in this state and whether or not the  
45 authority is exercised or the power of attorney is executed in  
46 this state.

47 (g) An act performed by an agent pursuant to a power of  
48 attorney has the same effect and inures to the benefit of and



49 binds the principal and the principal's successors in interest  
50 as if the principal had performed the act.

**§39B-2-102. Incorporation of authority.**

1 (a) An agent has authority described in this article if the  
2 power of attorney refers to general authority with respect to  
3 the descriptive term for the subjects stated in section one  
4 hundred four through section one hundred seventeen of this  
5 article or cites the section in this article in which the authority  
6 is described.

7 (b) A reference in a power of attorney to general  
8 authority with respect to the descriptive term for a subject in  
9 section one hundred four through section one hundred  
10 seventeen of this article or a citation to a section of section  
11 one hundred four through section one hundred seventeen of  
12 this article incorporates the entire section as if it were set out  
13 in full in the power of attorney.

14 (c) A principal may modify authority incorporated by  
15 reference.

**§39B-2-103. Construction of authority generally.**

1 Except as otherwise provided in the power of attorney, by  
2 executing a power of attorney that incorporates by reference  
3 a subject described in sections one hundred four through one  
4 hundred seventeen of this article or that grants to an agent  
5 authority to do all acts that a principal could do pursuant to  
6 the provisions of section one hundred one subsection (c) of  
7 this article, a principal authorizes the agent, with respect to  
8 that subject, to:

9 (1) Demand, receive and obtain by litigation or otherwise,  
10 money or another thing of value to which the principal is,

11 may become or claims to be entitled, and conserve, invest,  
12 disburse or use anything so received or obtained for the  
13 purposes intended;

14 (2) Contract in any manner with any person, on terms  
15 agreeable to the agent, to accomplish a purpose of a  
16 transaction and perform, rescind, cancel, terminate, reform,  
17 restate, release or modify the contract or another contract  
18 made by or on behalf of the principal;

19 (3) Execute, acknowledge, seal, deliver, file or record any  
20 instrument or communication the agent considers desirable to  
21 accomplish a purpose of a transaction, including creating at  
22 any time a schedule listing some or all of the principal's  
23 property and attaching it to the power of attorney;

24 (4) Initiate, participate in, submit to alternative dispute  
25 resolution, settle, oppose or propose or accept a compromise  
26 with respect to a claim existing in favor of or against the  
27 principal or intervene in litigation relating to the claim;

28 (5) Seek on the principal's behalf the assistance of a court  
29 or other governmental agency to carry out an act authorized  
30 in the power of attorney;

31 (6) Engage, compensate and discharge an attorney,  
32 accountant, discretionary investment manager, expert witness  
33 or other advisor;

34 (7) Prepare, execute and file a record, report or other  
35 document to safeguard or promote the principal's interest  
36 under a statute or rule;

37 (8) Communicate with any representative or employee of  
38 a government or governmental subdivision, agency or  
39 instrumentality, on behalf of the principal;

40 (9) Access communications intended for, and  
41 communicate on behalf of the principal, whether by mail,  
42 electronic transmission, telephone or other means; and

43 (10) Do any lawful act with respect to the subject and all  
44 property related to the subject.

**§39B-2-104. Real property.**

1 (a) Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides,  
2 language in a power of attorney granting general authority  
3 with respect to real property authorizes the agent to:

4 (1) Demand, buy, lease, receive, accept as a gift or as  
5 security for an extension of credit, or otherwise acquire or reject  
6 an interest in real property or a right incident to real property;

7 (2) Sell, exchange, convey with or without covenants,  
8 representations, or warranties, quitclaim, release, surrender,  
9 retain title for security, encumber, partition, consent to  
10 partitioning, subject to an easement or covenant, subdivide,  
11 apply for zoning or other governmental permits, plat or  
12 consent to platting; develop, grant an option concerning,  
13 lease, sublease, contribute to an entity in exchange for an  
14 interest in that entity or otherwise grant or dispose of an  
15 interest in real property or a right incident to real property;

16 (3) Pledge or mortgage an interest in real property or  
17 right incident to real property as security to borrow money or  
18 pay, renew or extend the time of payment of a debt of the  
19 principal or a debt guaranteed by the principal;

20 (4) Release, assign, satisfy or enforce by litigation or  
21 otherwise a mortgage, deed of trust, conditional sale contract,  
22 encumbrance, lien or other claim to real property which exists  
23 or is asserted;

24 (5) Manage or conserve an interest in real property or a  
25 right incident to real property owned or claimed to be owned  
26 by the principal, including:

27 (A) Insuring against liability or casualty or other loss;

28 (B) Obtaining or regaining possession of or protecting the  
29 interest or right by litigation or otherwise;

30 (C) Paying, assessing, compromising or contesting taxes  
31 or assessments or applying for and receiving refunds in  
32 connection with them; and

33 (D) Purchasing supplies, hiring assistance or labor and  
34 making repairs or alterations to the real property;

35 (6) Use, develop, alter, replace, remove, erect or install  
36 structures or other improvements upon real property in or  
37 incident to which the principal has, or claims to have, an  
38 interest or right;

39 (7) Participate in a reorganization with respect to real  
40 property or an entity that owns an interest in or right incident  
41 to real property and receive, hold and act with respect to  
42 stocks and bonds or other property received in a plan of  
43 reorganization, including:

44 (A) Selling or otherwise disposing of them;

45 (B) Exercising or selling an option, right of conversion or  
46 similar right with respect to them; and

47 (C) Exercising any voting rights in person or by proxy;

48 (8) Change the form of title of an interest in or right  
49 incident to real property; and

50 (9) Dedicate to public use, with or without consideration,  
51 easements or other real property in which the principal has,  
52 or claims to have, an interest.

53 (b) In order to exercise the powers provided in  
54 subdivisions (2), (3), (8) and (9), subsection (a) of this  
55 section, or to release or assign an interest in real property as  
56 described in subdivision (4), subsection (a) of this section, the  
57 power of attorney must first be recorded in the office of the  
58 clerk of the county commission in the county in which the  
59 property is located.

**§39B-2-105. Tangible personal property.**

1 (a) Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides,  
2 language in a power of attorney granting general authority  
3 with respect to tangible personal property authorizes the  
4 agent to:

5 (1) Demand, buy, receive or accept as a gift or as security  
6 for an extension of credit, or otherwise acquire or reject  
7 ownership or possession of tangible personal property or an  
8 interest in tangible personal property;

9 (2) Sell, exchange, convey with or without covenants,  
10 representations, or warranties; quitclaim, release, surrender,  
11 create a security interest in, grant options concerning, lease,  
12 sublease or, otherwise dispose of tangible personal property  
13 or an interest in tangible personal property;

14 (3) Grant a security interest in tangible personal property  
15 or an interest in tangible personal property as security to  
16 borrow money or pay, renew or extend the time of payment  
17 of a debt of the principal or a debt guaranteed by the  
18 principal;

19 (4) Release, assign, satisfy or enforce by litigation or  
20 otherwise, a security interest, lien or other claim on behalf of  
21 the principal, with respect to tangible personal property or an  
22 interest in tangible personal property;

23 (5) Manage or conserve tangible personal property or an  
24 interest in tangible personal property on behalf of the  
25 principal, including:

26 (A) Insuring against liability or casualty or other loss;

27 (B) Obtaining or regaining possession of or protecting the  
28 property or interest, by litigation or otherwise;

29 (C) Paying, assessing, compromising or contesting taxes  
30 or assessments or applying for and receiving refunds in  
31 connection with taxes or assessments;

32 (D) Moving the property from place to place;

33 (E) Storing the property for hire or on a gratuitous  
34 bailment; and

35 (F) Using and making repairs, alterations or  
36 improvements to the property; and

37 (6) Change the form of title of an interest in tangible  
38 personal property.

**§39B-2-106. Stocks and bonds.**

1 (a) Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides,  
2 language in a power of attorney granting general authority  
3 with respect to stocks and bonds authorizes the agent to:

4 (1) Buy, sell and exchange stocks and bonds;

5 (2) Establish, continue, modify or terminate an account  
6 with respect to stocks and bonds;

7 (3) Pledge stocks and bonds as security to borrow, pay,  
8 renew or extend the time of payment of a debt of the  
9 principal;

10 (4) Receive certificates and other evidences of ownership  
11 with respect to stocks and bonds; and

12 (5) Exercise voting rights with respect to stocks and  
13 bonds in person or by proxy, enter into voting trusts and  
14 consent to limitations on the right to vote.

**§39B-2-107. Commodities and options.**

1 (a) Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides,  
2 language in a power of attorney granting general authority with  
3 respect to commodities and options authorizes the agent to:

4 (1) Buy, sell, exchange, assign, settle and exercise  
5 commodity futures contracts and call or put options on stocks  
6 or stock indexes traded on a regulated option exchange; and

7 (2) Establish, continue, modify and terminate option  
8 accounts.

**§39B-2-108. Banks and other financial institutions.**

1 (a) Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides,  
2 language in a power of attorney granting general authority  
3 with respect to banks and other financial institutions  
4 authorizes the agent to:

5 (1) Continue, modify and terminate an account or other  
6 banking arrangement made by or on behalf of the principal;

7 (2) Establish, modify and terminate an account or other  
8 banking arrangement with a bank, trust company, savings and  
9 loan association, credit union, thrift company, brokerage firm  
10 or other financial institution selected by the agent;

11 (3) Contract for services available from a financial  
12 institution, including renting a safe deposit box or space in a  
13 vault;

14 (4) Withdraw, by check, order, electronic funds transfer  
15 or otherwise, money or property of the principal deposited  
16 with or left in the custody of a financial institution;

17 (5) Receive statements of account, vouchers, notices and  
18 similar documents from a financial institution and act with  
19 respect to them;

20 (6) Enter a safe deposit box or vault and withdraw or add  
21 to the contents;

22 (7) Borrow money and pledge as security personal  
23 property of the principal necessary to borrow money or pay,  
24 renew or extend the time of payment of a debt of the principal  
25 or a debt guaranteed by the principal;

26 (8) Make, assign, draw, endorse, discount, guarantee and  
27 negotiate promissory notes, checks, drafts and other  
28 negotiable or nonnegotiable paper of the principal or payable  
29 to the principal or the principal's order, transfer money,  
30 receive the cash or other proceeds of those transactions, and  
31 accept a draft drawn by a person upon the principal and pay  
32 it when due;

33 (9) Receive for the principal and act upon a sight draft,  
34 warehouse receipt or other document of title whether tangible  
35 or electronic or other negotiable or nonnegotiable instrument;



36 (10) Apply for, receive and use letters of credit, credit  
37 and debit cards, electronic transaction authorizations and  
38 traveler's checks from a financial institution and give an  
39 indemnity or other agreement in connection with letters of  
40 credit; and

41 (11) Consent to an extension of the time of payment with  
42 respect to commercial paper or a financial transaction with a  
43 financial institution.

**§39B-2-109. Operation of entity or business.**

1 (a) Subject to the terms of a document or an agreement  
2 governing an entity or an entity ownership interest, and  
3 unless the power of attorney otherwise provides, language in  
4 a power of attorney granting general authority with respect to  
5 operation of an entity or business authorizes the agent to:

6 (1) Operate, buy, sell, enlarge, reduce or terminate an  
7 ownership interest;

8 (2) Perform a duty or discharge a liability and exercise in  
9 person or by proxy a right, power, privilege or option that the  
10 principal has, may have, or claims to have;

11 (3) Enforce the terms of an ownership agreement;

12 (4) Initiate, participate in, submit to alternative dispute  
13 resolution, settle, oppose or propose or accept a compromise  
14 with respect to litigation to which the principal is a party  
15 because of an ownership interest;

16 (5) Exercise in person or by proxy, or enforce by  
17 litigation or otherwise, a right, power, privilege or option the  
18 principal has or claims to have as the holder of stocks and  
19 bonds;

20 (6) Initiate, participate in, submit to alternative dispute  
21 resolution, settle, oppose or propose or accept a compromise  
22 with respect to litigation to which the principal is a party  
23 concerning stocks and bonds;

24 (7) With respect to an entity or business owned solely by  
25 the principal:

26 (A) Continue, modify, renegotiate, extend and terminate  
27 a contract made by or on behalf of the principal with respect  
28 to the entity or business before execution of the power of  
29 attorney;

30 (B) Determine:

31 (i) The location of its operation;

32 (ii) The nature and extent of its business;

33 (iii) The methods of manufacturing, selling,  
34 merchandising, financing, accounting and advertising  
35 employed in its operation;

36 (iv) The amount and types of insurance carried; and

37 (v) The mode of engaging, compensating and dealing  
38 with its employees and accountants, attorneys or other  
39 advisors;

40 (C) Change the name or form of organization under  
41 which the entity or business is operated and enter into an  
42 ownership agreement with other persons to take over all or  
43 part of the operation of the entity or business; and

44 (D) Demand and receive money due or claimed by the  
45 principal or on the principal's behalf in the operation of the

46 entity or business and control and disburse the money in the  
47 operation of the entity or business;

48 (8) Put additional capital into an entity or business in  
49 which the principal has an interest;

50 (9) Join in a plan of reorganization, consolidation,  
51 conversion, domestication, or merger of the entity or  
52 business;

53 (10) Sell or liquidate all or part of an entity or business;

54 (11) Establish the value of an entity or business under a  
55 buy-out agreement to which the principal is a party;

56 (12) Prepare, sign, file and deliver reports, compilations  
57 of information, returns or other papers with respect to an  
58 entity or business and make related payments; and

59 (13) Pay, compromise, or contest taxes, assessments,  
60 fines or penalties and perform any other act to protect the  
61 principal from illegal or unnecessary taxation, assessments,  
62 fines or penalties, with respect to an entity or business,  
63 including attempts to recover, in any manner permitted by  
64 law, money paid before or after the execution of the power of  
65 attorney.

**§39B-2-110. Insurance and annuities.**

1 (a) Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides,  
2 language in a power of attorney granting general authority  
3 with respect to insurance and annuities authorizes the agent  
4 to:

5 (1) Continue, pay the premium or make a contribution on,  
6 modify, exchange, rescind, release or terminate a contract

7 procured by or on behalf of the principal which insures or  
8 provides an annuity to either the principal or another person,  
9 whether or not the principal is a beneficiary under the  
10 contract;

11 (2) Procure new, different and additional contracts of  
12 insurance and annuities for the principal and the principal's  
13 spouse, children and other dependents, and select the amount,  
14 type of insurance or annuity and mode of payment;

15 (3) Pay the premium or make a contribution on, modify,  
16 exchange, rescind, release or terminate a contract of  
17 insurance or annuity procured by the agent;

18 (4) Apply for and receive a loan secured by a contract of  
19 insurance or annuity;

20 (5) Surrender and receive the cash surrender value on a  
21 contract of insurance or annuity;

22 (6) Exercise an election;

23 (7) Exercise investment powers available under a contract  
24 of insurance or annuity;

25 (8) Change the manner of paying premiums on a contract  
26 of insurance or annuity;

27 (9) Change or convert the type of insurance or annuity  
28 with respect to which the principal has or claims to have  
29 authority described in this section;

30 (10) Apply for and procure a benefit or assistance under  
31 a statute or regulation to guarantee or pay premiums of a  
32 contract of insurance on the life of the principal;

33 (11) Collect, sell, assign, hypothecate, borrow against or  
34 pledge the interest of the principal in a contract of insurance  
35 or annuity;

36 (12) Select the form and timing of the payment of  
37 proceeds from a contract of insurance or annuity; and

38 (13) Pay, from proceeds or otherwise, compromise or  
39 contest and apply for refunds in connection with, a tax or  
40 assessment levied by a taxing authority with respect to a  
41 contract of insurance or annuity or its proceeds or liability  
42 accruing by reason of the tax or assessment.

**§39B-2-111. Estates, trusts and other beneficial interests.**

1 (a) In this section, "estate, trust, or other beneficial  
2 interest" means a trust, probate estate, guardianship,  
3 conservatorship, escrow, custodianship, or a fund from which  
4 the principal is, may become, or claims to be, entitled to a  
5 share or payment.

6 (b) Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides,  
7 language in a power of attorney granting general authority  
8 with respect to estates, trusts and other beneficial interests  
9 authorizes the agent to:

10 (1) Accept, receive, receipt for, sell, assign, pledge or  
11 exchange a share in or payment from an estate, trust or other  
12 beneficial interest;

13 (2) Demand or obtain money or another thing of value to  
14 which the principal is, may become, or claims to be, entitled  
15 by reason of an estate, trust or other beneficial interest, by  
16 litigation or otherwise;

17 (3) Exercise for the benefit of the principal a presently  
18 exercisable general power of appointment held by the  
19 principal;

20 (4) Initiate, participate in, submit to alternative dispute  
21 resolution, settle, oppose or propose or accept a compromise  
22 with respect to litigation to ascertain the meaning, validity or  
23 effect of a decd, will, declaration of trust or other instrument  
24 or transaction affecting the interest of the principal;

25 (5) Initiate, participate in, submit to alternative dispute  
26 resolution, settle, oppose or propose or accept a compromise  
27 with respect to litigation to remove, substitute or surcharge a  
28 fiduciary;

29 (6) Conserve, invest, disburse or use anything received  
30 for an authorized purpose;

31 (7) Transfer an interest of the principal in real property,  
32 stocks and bonds, accounts with financial institutions or  
33 securities intermediaries, insurance, annuities and other  
34 property to the trustee of a revocable trust created by the  
35 principal as settler; and

36 (8) Reject, renounce, disclaim, release or consent to a  
37 reduction in or modification of a share in or payment from an  
38 estate, trust or other beneficial interest.

**§39B-2-112. Claims and litigation.**

1 (a) Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides,  
2 language in a power of attorney granting general authority  
3 with respect to claims and litigation authorizes the agent to:

4 (1) Assert and maintain before a court or administrative  
5 agency a claim, claim for relief, cause of action, counterclaim,

- 6 offset, recoupment or defense, including an action to recover  
7 property or other thing of value, recover damages sustained by  
8 the principal, eliminate or modify tax liability, or seek an  
9 injunction, specific performance or other relief;
- 10 (2) Bring an action to determine adverse claims or  
11 intervene or otherwise participate in litigation;
- 12 (3) Seek an attachment, garnishment, order of arrest or  
13 other preliminary, provisional or intermediate relief and use  
14 an available procedure to effect or satisfy a judgment, order  
15 or decree;
- 16 (4) Make or accept a tender, offer of judgment or  
17 admission of facts, submit a controversy on an agreed  
18 statement of facts, consent to examination and bind the  
19 principal in litigation;
- 20 (5) Submit to alternative dispute resolution, settle and  
21 propose or accept a compromise;
- 22 (6) Waive the issuance and service of process upon the  
23 principal, accept service of process, appear for the principal,  
24 designate persons upon which process directed to the  
25 principal may be served, execute and file or deliver  
26 stipulations on the principal's behalf, verify pleadings, seek  
27 appellate review, procure and give surety and indemnity  
28 bonds, contract and pay for the preparation and printing of  
29 records and briefs, receive, execute and file or deliver a  
30 consent, waiver, release, confession of judgment, satisfaction  
31 of judgment, notice, agreement or other instrument in  
32 connection with the prosecution, settlement or defense of a  
33 claim or litigation;
- 34 (7) Act for the principal with respect to bankruptcy or  
35 insolvency, whether voluntary or involuntary, concerning the

36 principal or some other person, or with respect to a  
37 reorganization, receivership or application for the  
38 appointment of a receiver or trustee which affects an interest  
39 of the principal in property or other thing of value;

40 (8) Pay a judgment, award or order against the principal  
41 or a settlement made in connection with a claim or litigation;  
42 and

43 (9) Receive money or other thing of value paid in  
44 settlement of or as proceeds of a claim or litigation.

**§39B-2-113. Personal and family maintenance.**

1 (a) Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides,  
2 language in a power of attorney granting general authority  
3 with respect to personal and family maintenance authorizes  
4 the agent to:

5 (1) Perform the acts necessary to maintain the customary  
6 standard of living of the principal, the principal's spouse and  
7 the following individuals, whether living when the power of  
8 attorney is executed or later born:

9 (A) The principal's children;

10 (B) Other individuals legally entitled to be supported by  
11 the principal; and

12 (C) The individuals whom the principal has customarily  
13 supported or indicated the intent to support;

14 (2) Make periodic payments of child support and other  
15 family maintenance required by a court or governmental  
16 agency or an agreement to which the principal is a party;



17 (3) Provide living quarters for the individuals described  
18 in subsection (1) of this section by:

19 (A) Purchase, lease or other contract; or

20 (B) Paying the operating costs, including interest,  
21 amortization payments, repairs, improvements and taxes, for  
22 premises owned by the principal or occupied by those  
23 individuals;

24 (4) Provide normal domestic help, usual vacations and  
25 travel expenses, and funds for shelter, clothing, food,  
26 appropriate education, including postsecondary and  
27 vocational education and other current living costs for the  
28 individuals described in subsection (1) of this section;

29 (5) Pay expenses for necessary health care and custodial  
30 care on behalf of the individuals described in subdivision (1)  
31 of this section;

32 (6) Act as the principal's personal representative pursuant to  
33 the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, §1171  
34 through §1179 of the Social Security Act, §42 U. S. C. 1320d, and  
35 applicable regulations, in making decisions related to the past,  
36 present or future payment for the provision of health care  
37 consented to by the principal or anyone authorized under the law  
38 of this state to consent to health care on behalf of the principal;

39 (7) Continue any provision made by the principal for  
40 automobiles or other means of transportation, including  
41 registering, licensing, insuring and replacing them, for the  
42 individuals described in subsection (1) of this section;

43 (8) Maintain credit and debit accounts for the  
44 convenience of the individuals described in subsection (1) of  
45 this section and open new accounts; and

46 (9) Continue payments incidental to the membership or  
47 affiliation of the principal in a religious institution, club,  
48 society, order or other organization or to continue  
49 contributions to those organizations.

50 (b) Authority with respect to personal and family  
51 maintenance is neither dependent upon, nor limited by,  
52 authority that an agent may or may not have with respect to  
53 gifts under this article.

**§39B-2-114. Benefits from governmental programs or civil or  
military service.**

1 (a) In this section, “benefits from governmental  
2 programs or civil or military service” means any benefit,  
3 program or assistance provided under a federal, state or  
4 local statute or regulation including Social Security,  
5 Medicare and Medicaid.

6 (b) Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides,  
7 language in a power of attorney granting general authority  
8 with respect to benefits from governmental programs or civil  
9 or military service authorizes the agent to:

10 (1) Execute vouchers in the name of the principal for  
11 allowances and reimbursements payable by the United States  
12 or a foreign government or by a state or subdivision of a state  
13 to the principal, including allowances and reimbursements for  
14 transportation of the individuals described in section one  
15 hundred thirteen, subsection (a)(1) of this article, and for  
16 shipment of their household effects;

17 (2) Take possession and order the removal and shipment  
18 of property of the principal from a post, warehouse, depot,  
19 dock or other place of storage or safekeeping, either  
20 governmental or private, and execute and deliver a release,

21 voucher, receipt, bill of lading, shipping ticket, certificate or  
22 other instrument for that purpose;

23 (3) Enroll in, apply for, select, reject, change, amend or  
24 discontinue, on the principal's behalf, a benefit or program;

25 (4) Prepare, file and maintain a claim of the principal for  
26 a benefit or assistance, financial or otherwise, to which the  
27 principal may be entitled under a statute or rule;

28 (5) Initiate, participate in, submit to alternative dispute  
29 resolution, settle, oppose or propose or accept a compromise with  
30 respect to litigation concerning any benefit or assistance the  
31 principal may be entitled to receive under a statute or rule; and

32 (6) Receive the financial proceeds of a claim described in  
33 subdivision(4) of this section and conserve, invest, disburse  
34 or use for a lawful purpose anything so received.

**§39B-2-115. Retirement plans.**

1 (a) In this section, "retirement plan" means a plan or  
2 account created by an employer, the principal or another  
3 individual to provide retirement benefits or deferred  
4 compensation of which the principal is a participant,  
5 beneficiary or owner, including a plan or account under the  
6 following sections of the Internal Revenue Code:

7 (1) An individual retirement account under Internal  
8 Revenue Code, 26 U. S. C. §408;

9 (2) A Roth individual retirement account under Internal  
10 Revenue Code, 26 U. S. C. §408A;

11 (3) A deemed individual retirement account under  
12 Internal Revenue Code, 26 U. S. C. §408(q);

13 (4) An annuity or mutual fund custodial account under  
14 Internal Revenue Code, 26 U. S. C. §403(b);

15 (5) A pension, profit-sharing, stock bonus or other retirement  
16 plan qualified under Internal Revenue Code, 26 U. S. C. §401(a);

17 (6) A plan under Internal Revenue Code, 26 U. S. C.  
18 §457(b); and

19 (7) A nonqualified deferred compensation plan under  
20 Internal Revenue Code, 26 U. S. C. §409A.

21 (b) Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides,  
22 language in a power of attorney granting general authority  
23 with respect to retirement plans authorizes the agent to:

24 (1) Select the form and timing of payments under a  
25 retirement plan and withdraw benefits from a plan;

26 (2) Make a rollover, including a direct trustee-to-trustee  
27 rollover, of benefits from one retirement plan to another;

28 (3) Establish a retirement plan in the principal's name;

29 (4) Make contributions to a retirement plan;

30 (5) Exercise investment powers available under a  
31 retirement plan; and

32 (6) Borrow from, sell assets to or purchase assets from a  
33 retirement plan.

**§39B-2-116. Taxes.**

1 Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides,  
2 language in a power of attorney granting general authority  
3 with respect to taxes authorizes the agent to:

4 (1) Prepare, sign and file federal, state, local and foreign  
5 income, gift, payroll, property, Federal Insurance  
6 Contributions Act and other tax returns, claims for refunds,  
7 requests for extension of time, petitions regarding tax matters  
8 and any other tax-related documents, including receipts,  
9 offers, waivers, consents, including consents and agreements  
10 under Internal Revenue Code, 26 U. S. C. §2032A, closing  
11 agreements and any power of attorney required by the  
12 Internal Revenue Service or other taxing authority with  
13 respect to a tax year upon which the statute of limitations has  
14 not run and the following twenty-five tax years;

15 (2) Pay taxes due, collect refunds, post bonds, receive  
16 confidential information and contest deficiencies determined  
17 by the Internal Revenue Service or other taxing authority;

18 (3) Exercise any election available to the principal under  
19 federal, state, local or foreign tax law; and

20 (4) Act for the principal in all tax matters for all periods  
21 before the Internal Revenue Service or other taxing authority.

**§39B-2-117. Gifts.**

1 (a) In this section, a gift “for the benefit of” a person  
2 includes a gift to a trust, an account under the Uniform  
3 Transfers to Minors Act and a tuition savings account or  
4 prepaid tuition plan as defined under Internal Revenue Code,  
5 26 U. S. C. §529, as amended.

6 (b) Unless the power of attorney otherwise provides,  
7 language in a power of attorney granting general authority  
8 with respect to gifts authorizes the agent only to:

9 (1) Make outright to, or for the benefit of, a person, a gift  
10 of any of the principal’s property, including by the exercise

11 of a presently exercisable general power of appointment held  
12 by the principal, in an amount per donee not to exceed the  
13 annual dollar limits of the federal gift tax exclusion under  
14 Internal Revenue Code, 26 U. S. C. §2503(b), without regard  
15 to whether the federal gift tax exclusion applies to the gift or  
16 if the principal's spouse agrees to consent to a split gift  
17 pursuant to Internal Revenue Code, 26 U. S. C. §2513, as  
18 amended, in an amount per donee not to exceed twice the  
19 annual federal gift tax exclusion limit; and

20 (2) Consent, pursuant to Internal Revenue Code, 26 U. S.  
21 C. §2513, to the splitting of a gift made by the principal's  
22 spouse in an amount per donee not to exceed the aggregate  
23 annual gift tax exclusions for both spouses.

24 (c) An agent may make a gift of the principal's property  
25 only as the agent determines is consistent with the principal's  
26 objectives if actually known by the agent and, if unknown, as  
27 the agent determines is consistent with the principal's best  
28 interest based on all relevant factors, including:

29 (1) The value and nature of the principal's property;

30 (2) The principal's foreseeable obligations and need for  
31 maintenance;

32 (3) Minimization of taxes, including income, estate,  
33 inheritance, generation-skipping transfer and gift taxes;

34 (4) Eligibility for a benefit, a program or assistance under  
35 a statute or regulation; and

36 (5) The principal's personal history of making or joining  
37 in making gifts.

**ARTICLE 3. STATUTORY FORMS.**

**§39B-3-101. Statutory form power of attorney.**

1 A document substantially in the following form may be  
2 used to create a statutory form power of attorney that has the  
3 meaning and effect prescribed by this act.

4 **State of West Virginia**

5 **STATUTORY FORM POWER OF ATTORNEY**

6 **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

7 This power of attorney authorizes another person (your  
8 agent) to make decisions concerning your property for you  
9 (the principal). Your agent will be able to make decisions  
10 and act with respect to your property (including your money)  
11 whether or not you are able to act for yourself. The meaning  
12 of authority over subjects listed on this form is explained in  
13 the Uniform Power of Attorney Act [insert citation].

14 This power of attorney does not authorize the agent to  
15 make health-care decisions for you.

16 You should select someone you trust to serve as your  
17 agent. Unless you specify otherwise, generally the agent's  
18 authority will continue until you die or revoke the power of  
19 attorney or the agent resigns or is unable to act for you.

20 Your agent is entitled to reasonable compensation unless  
21 you state otherwise in the special instructions. This form  
22 provides for designation of one agent. If you wish to name  
23 more than one agent you may name a coagent in the Special  
24 Instructions. Coagents are not required to act together unless  
25 you include that requirement in the Special Instructions. If

26 your agent is unable or unwilling to act for you, your power  
27 of attorney will end unless you have named a successor  
28 agent. You may also name a second successor agent.

29 This power of attorney becomes effective immediately  
30 unless you state otherwise in the Special Instructions.

31 If you have questions about the power of attorney or  
32 the authority you are granting to your agent, you should  
33 seek legal advice before signing this form.

34 **DESIGNATION OF AGENT**

35 I \_\_\_\_\_ name the following person as my agent:  
36 (Name of Principal)

37 Name of Agent: \_\_\_\_\_

38 Agent's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

39 Agent's Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

40 If my agent is unable or unwilling to act for me, I name as  
41 my successor agent:

42 Name of Successor Agent: \_\_\_\_\_

43 Successor Agent's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

44 Successor Agent's Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

45 If my successor agent is unable or unwilling to act for me,  
46 I name as my second successor agent:

47 Name of Second Successor Agent: \_\_\_\_\_



48 Second Successor Agent's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

49 Second Successor Agent's Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

50 **GRANT OF GENERAL AUTHORITY**

51 I grant my agent and any successor agent general  
52 authority to act for me with respect to the following subjects  
53 as defined in the Uniform Power of Attorney Act [insert  
54 citation]:

55 (INITIAL each subject you want to include in the agent's  
56 general authority. If you wish to grant general authority over  
57 all of the subjects you may initial "All Preceding Subjects"  
58 instead of initialing each subject.)

59  Real Property

60  Tangible Personal Property

61  Stocks and Bonds

62  Commodities and Options

63  Banks and Other Financial Institutions

64  Operation of Entity or Business

65  Insurance and Annuities

66  Estates, Trusts, and Other Beneficial Interests

67  Claims and Litigation

68  Personal and Family Maintenance

69  Benefits from Governmental Programs or Civil or

70 Military Service

71  Retirement Plans

72  Taxes

73  All Preceding Subjects

74 **GRANT OF SPECIFIC AUTHORITY (OPTIONAL)**

75 My agent MAY NOT do any of the following specific  
76 acts for me UNLESS I have INITIALED the specific  
77 authority listed below:

78 (CAUTION: Granting any of the following will give your  
79 agent the authority to take actions that could significantly  
80 reduce your property or change how your property is  
81 distributed at your death. INITIAL ONLY the specific  
82 authority you WANT to give your agent.)

83  Create, amend, revoke, or terminate an inter vivos trust

84  Make a gift, subject to the limitations of the West  
85 Virginia Uniform Power of Attorney Act and any  
86 special instructions in this power of attorney

87  Create or change rights of survivorship

88  Create or change a beneficiary designation

89  Authorize another person to exercise the authority  
90 granted under this power of attorney

91  Waive the principal's right to be a beneficiary of a  
92 joint and survivor annuity, including a survivor  
93 benefit under a retirement plan

94  Exercise fiduciary powers that the principal has  
95 authority to delegate

96 [ Disclaim or refuse an interest in property, including a  
97 power of appointment]

98 **LIMITATION ON AGENT'S AUTHORITY**

99 An agent that is not my ancestor, spouse or descendant  
100 **MAY NOT** use my property to benefit the agent or a person to  
101 whom the agent owes an obligation of support unless I have  
102 included that authority in the Special Instructions.

103 **SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS (OPTIONAL)**

104 You may give special instructions on the following lines:

105 \_\_\_\_\_  
106 \_\_\_\_\_  
107 \_\_\_\_\_  
108 \_\_\_\_\_  
109 \_\_\_\_\_  
110 \_\_\_\_\_  
111 \_\_\_\_\_

112 **EFFECTIVE DATE**

113 This power of attorney is effective immediately unless I  
114 have stated otherwise in the special instructions.

115 **NOMINATION OF [CONSERVATOR OR**  
116 **GUARDIAN] (OPTIONAL)**

117 If it becomes necessary for a court to appoint a  
118 [conservator or guardian] of my estate or [guardian] of my  
119 person, I nominate the following person(s) for appointment:

120 Name of Nominee for [conservator or guardian] of my estate:

121 \_\_\_\_\_

122 Nominee's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

123 Nominee's Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

124 Name of Nominee for [guardian] of my person: \_\_\_\_\_

125 Nominee's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

126 Nominee's Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

127 **RELIANCE ON THIS POWER OF ATTORNEY**

128 Any person, including my agent, may rely upon the  
129 validity of this power of attorney or a copy of it unless that  
130 person knows it has terminated or is invalid.

131 **SIGNATURE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

132 \_\_\_\_\_

133 Your Signature

Date

134 Your Name Printed \_\_\_\_\_

135 Your Address \_\_\_\_\_

136 Your Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

137 State of \_\_\_\_\_

138 [County] of \_\_\_\_\_

139 This document was acknowledged before me on \_\_\_\_\_,  
140 (Date)

141 by \_\_\_\_\_  
142 (Name of Principal)

143 \_\_\_\_\_(Seal, if any)  
144 Signature of Notary

145 My commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_

146 [This document prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_]

147 **IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR AGENT**

148 **Agent's Duties**

149 When you accept the authority granted under this power  
150 of attorney, a special legal relationship is created between  
151 you and the principal. This relationship imposes upon you  
152 legal duties that continue until you resign or the power of  
153 attorney is terminated or revoked. You must:

154 (1) Do what you know the principal reasonably expects  
155 you to do with the principal's property or, if you do not know  
156 the principal's expectations, act in the principal's best  
157 interest; act in good faith;

158 (2) Do nothing beyond the authority granted in this power  
159 of attorney; and

160 (3) Disclose your identity as an agent whenever you act  
161 for the principal by writing or printing the name of the  
162 principal and signing your own name as "agent" in the  
163 following manner:

164 \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_  
165 (Principal's Name) (Your Signature) as Agent

166 Unless the special instructions in this power of attorney  
167 state otherwise, you must also:

168 (1) Act loyally for the principal's benefit;

169 (2) Avoid conflicts that would impair your ability to act  
170 in the principal's best interest;

171 (3) Act with care, competence and diligence;

172 (4) Keep a record of all receipts, disbursements and  
173 transactions made on behalf of the principal;

174 (5) Cooperate with any person that has authority to make  
175 health-care decisions for the principal to do what you know  
176 the principal reasonably expects or, if you do not know the  
177 principal's expectations, to act in the principal's best interest;  
178 and attempt to preserve the principal's estate plan if you  
179 know the plan and preserving the plan is consistent with the  
180 principal's best interest.

### 181 Termination of Agent's Authority

182 You must stop acting on behalf of the principal if you  
183 learn of any event that terminates this power of attorney or  
184 your authority under this power of attorney. Events that  
185 terminate a power of attorney or your authority to act under  
186 a power of attorney include:

187 (1) Death of the principal;

188 (2) The principal's revocation of the power of attorney or  
189 your authority;

190 (3) The occurrence of a termination event stated in the  
191 power of attorney;

192 (4) The purpose of the power of attorney is fully  
193 accomplished; or

194 (5) If you are married to the principal, a legal action is  
195 filed with a court to end your marriage or for your legal  
196 separation, unless the Special Instructions in this power of  
197 attorney state that such an action will not terminate your  
198 authority.

199 **Liability of Agent**

200 The meaning of the authority granted to you is defined in  
201 the Uniform Power of Attorney Act [insert citation]. If you  
202 violate the Uniform Power of Attorney Act [insert citation] or  
203 act outside the authority granted, you may be liable for any  
204 damages caused by your violation.

205 **If there is anything about this document or your**  
206 **duties that you do not understand, you should seek legal**  
207 **advice.**

**§39B-3-102. Agent's certification**

1 The following optional form may be used by an agent to  
2 certify facts concerning a power of attorney:

3 **AGENT'S CERTIFICATION AS TO THE VALIDITY**  
4 **OF POWER OF ATTORNEY AND AGENT'S**  
5 **AUTHORITY**

6 State of \_\_\_\_\_

7 [County] of \_\_\_\_\_ ]

8 I, \_\_\_\_\_(Name of  
9 Agent), [certify] under penalty of perjury that  
10 \_\_\_\_\_(Name of Principal)  
11 granted me authority as an agent or successor agent in a  
12 power of attorney dated \_\_\_\_\_.

13 I, further [certify] that to my knowledge:

14 (1) The Principal is alive and has not revoked the power  
15 of attorney or my authority to act under the power of  
16 attorney and the power of attorney and my authority to act  
17 under the power of attorney have not terminated;

18 (2) If the power of attorney was drafted to become  
19 effective upon the happening of an event or contingency, the  
20 event or contingency has occurred;

21 (3) If I was named as a successor agent, the prior agent is  
22 no longer able or willing to serve; and

23 \_\_\_\_\_  
24 \_\_\_\_\_  
25 \_\_\_\_\_  
26 (Insert other relevant statements)

27 **SIGNATURE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

28 \_\_\_\_\_  
29 Agent's Signature Date

30 Agent's Name Printed \_\_\_\_\_

31 Agent's Address \_\_\_\_\_

32 Agent's Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_



33 This document was acknowledged before me on

34 \_\_\_\_\_,

35 (Date)

36 by \_\_\_\_\_,

37 (Name of Agent)

38 \_\_\_\_\_ (Seal, if any)

39 Signature of Notary

40 My commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_

41 [This document prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_]

#### ARTICLE 4. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

##### §39B-4-101. Uniformity of application and construction.

1 In applying and construing the provisions of this chapter,  
2 consideration must be given to the need to promote  
3 uniformity of the law with respect to its subject matter among  
4 the states that enact it.

##### §39B-4-102. Relation to electronic signatures in Global and National Commerce Act.

1 This act modifies, limits and supersedes the federal  
2 Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce  
3 Act, 15 U. S. C. §7001 et seq., but does not modify, limit or  
4 supersede 15 U. S. C. Section 7001(c), of that act, or  
5 authorize electronic delivery of any of the notices described  
6 in 15 U. S. C. Section §7003(b), of that act.

##### §39B-4-103. Effect on existing powers of attorney.

1 Except as otherwise provided in this act, on the effective  
2 date of this act its provisions apply to:

3 (1) A power of attorney created before, on, or after the  
4 effective date of this act;

5 (2) A judicial proceeding concerning a power of attorney  
6 commenced on or after the effective date of this act; and

7 (3) A judicial proceeding concerning a power of attorney  
8 commenced before the effective date of this act unless the court  
9 finds that application of a provision of this chapter would  
10 substantially interfere with the effective conduct of the judicial  
11 proceeding or prejudice the rights of a party, in which case that  
12 provision does not apply and the superseded law applies.

13 (b) An act done before the effective date of this act is not  
14 affected by this act.

## **CHAPTER 44A. WEST VIRGINIA GUARDIANSHIP AND CONSERVATORSHIP ACT.**

### **ARTICLE 3. GUARDIANSHIP AND CONSERVATORSHIP ADMINISTRATION.**

#### **§44A-3-3. Distributive duties and powers of the conservator of a protected person.**

1 (a) A conservator of a protected person, without the  
2 necessity of seeking prior court authorization, shall apply the  
3 income and principal of the estate as needed for the protected  
4 person's support, care, health, and if applicable, habilitation,  
5 education or therapeutic needs. A conservator shall also  
6 apply the income and principal as needed for the support of  
7 any legal dependents who are unable to support themselves  
8 and who are in need of support.

9 (b) A conservator, when making distributions, shall  
10 exercise authority only to the extent necessitated by the

11 protected person's limitations, and shall, where feasible,  
12 encourage the protected person to participate in decisions, to  
13 act on his or her own behalf, and to develop or regain the  
14 capacity to manage the estate and his or her financial affairs.  
15 A conservator shall also consider the size of the estate, the  
16 probable duration of the conservatorship, the protected  
17 person's accustomed manner of living, other resources known  
18 to the conservator to be available, and the recommendations  
19 of the guardian.

20 (c) A conservator shall, to the extent known, consider the  
21 express desires and personal values of the protected person  
22 when making decisions, and shall otherwise act in the  
23 protected person's best interests and exercise reasonable care,  
24 diligence and prudence.

The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

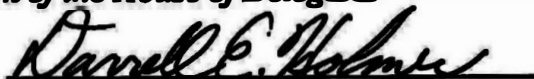
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman, House Committee

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman, Senate Committee

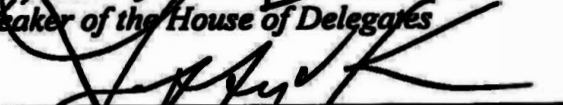
Originating in the House.

To take effect ninety days from passage.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the House of Delegates

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the Senate

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House of Delegates

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

The within approved this the 30th  
day of March, 2012.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

FILED  
2012 MAR 30 PM 4:15  
OFFICE WEST VIRGINIA  
SECRETARY OF STATE

PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNOR

12 / 2012

Time 1:30 pm