

Sen. Rachelle Crowe

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(755 ILCS 5/11a-17.1)

2 Sec. 11a-17.1. Sterilization of ward.

3 (a) A guardian of the person shall not consent to the sterilization of the ward without first obtaining an order 4 from the court granting the guardian the authority to provide 5 consent. For purposes of this Article XIa, "sterilization" 6 7 means any procedure that has as its purpose rendering the ward 8 permanently incapable of reproduction; provided, however, that 9 an order from the court is not required for a procedure that is 10 medically necessary to preserve the life of the ward or to prevent serious impairment to the health of the ward and which 11 12 may result in sterilization.

(b) A guardian seeking authority to consent to the sterilization of the ward shall seek such authority by filing a verified motion. The verified motion shall allege facts which demonstrate that the proposed sterilization is warranted under subsection (f), (g) or (h) of this Section. The guardian ad litem will notify the ward of the motion in the manner set forth in subsection (c) of this Section.

(c) Upon the filing of a verified motion for authority to consent to sterilization, the court shall appoint a guardian ad litem to report to the court consistent with the provisions of this Section. If the guardian ad litem is not a licensed attorney, he or she shall be qualified, by training or experience, to work with or advocate for persons with a 10200SB0732sam001 -3- LRB102 04558 LNS 25436 a

1 developmental disability, mental illness, physical disability, or disability because of mental deterioration, depending on 2 the type of disability of the ward that is alleged in the 3 4 motion. The court may allow the guardian ad litem reasonable 5 compensation. The guardian ad litem may consult with a person who by training or experience is qualified to work with 6 persons with a developmental disability, mental illness, 7 physical disability, or 8 disability because of mental 9 deterioration, depending on the type of disability of the ward 10 that is alleged. The guardian ad litem may also consult with 11 health care providers knowledgeable about reproductive health matters including sterilization, other forms of contraception, 12 and childbirth. Outside the presence of the guardian, the 13 14 quardian ad litem shall personally observe the ward prior to 15 the hearing and shall inform the ward orally and in writing of 16 the contents of the verified motion for authority to consent to sterilization. Outside the presence of the quardian, the 17 18 quardian ad litem shall also attempt to elicit the ward's position concerning the motion, and any other areas of inquiry 19 20 deemed appropriate by the court. At or before the hearing, the 21 guardian ad litem shall file a written report detailing his or 22 her observations of the ward; the responses of the ward to any 23 of the inquiries detailed in this Section; the opinion of the 24 quardian ad litem and any other professionals with whom the 25 quardian ad litem consulted concerning the ward's 26 understanding of and desire for or objection to, as well as

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1 in the ward's best interest relative what. is to, sterilization, other forms of contraception, and childbirth; 2 and any other material issue discovered by the guardian ad 3 4 litem. The guardian ad litem shall appear at the hearing and 5 testify, and may present witnesses, as to any issues presented in his or her report. 6

(d) The court shall (1) may appoint counsel for the ward $\frac{1}{1}$ 7 the court finds that the interests of the ward will be best 8 9 served by the appointment, and (2) shall appoint counsel upon 10 the ward's request, if the ward is objecting to the proposed sterilization, or if the ward takes a position adverse to that 11 of the guardian ad litem. The ward shall be permitted to obtain 12 13 the appointment of counsel either at the hearing or by any written or oral request communicated to the court prior to the 14 15 hearing. The court shall inform the ward of this right to obtain appointed counsel. The court may allow counsel for the 16 17 ward reasonable compensation.

(e) The court shall order a medical and psychological evaluation of the ward. The evaluation shall address the ward's decision making capacity with respect to the proposed sterilization, the existence of any less permanent alternatives, and any other material issue.

(f) The court shall determine, as a threshold inquiry, whether the ward has capacity to consent or withhold consent to the proposed sterilization and, if the ward lacks such capacity, whether the ward is likely to regain such capacity. 10200SB0732sam001 -5- LRB102 04558 LNS 25436 a

1 The ward shall not be deemed to lack such capacity solely on the basis of the adjudication of disability and appointment of 2 a guardian. In determining capacity, the court shall consider 3 4 whether the ward is able, after being provided appropriate 5 information, to understand the relationship between sexual activity and reproduction; the consequences of reproduction; 6 and the nature and consequences of the proposed sterilization 7 8 procedure. If the court finds that (1) the ward has capacity to 9 consent or withhold consent to the proposed sterilization, and 10 (2) the ward objects or consents to the procedure, the court 11 shall enter an order consistent with the ward's objection or consent and the proceedings on the verified motion shall be 12 13 terminated.

14 (q) If the court finds that the ward does not have capacity 15 to consent or withhold consent to the proposed sterilization 16 and is unlikely to regain such capacity, the court shall determine whether the ward is expressing a clear desire for 17 the proposed sterilization. If the ward is expressing a clear 18 desire for the proposed sterilization, the court's decision 19 20 regarding the proposed sterilization shall be made in accordance with the standards set forth in subsection (e) of 21 Section 11a-17 of this Act. 22

(h) If the court finds that the ward does not have capacity to consent or withhold consent to the proposed sterilization and is unlikely to regain such capacity, and that the ward is not expressing a clear desire for the proposed sterilization, 10200SB0732sam001 -6- LRB102 04558 LNS 25436 a

1 the court shall consider the standards set forth in subsection (e) of Section 11a-17 of this Act and enter written findings of 2 3 fact and conclusions of law addressing those standards. The sex of the ward shall not be a motivating factor in the court's 4 5 decision. In addition, the court shall not authorize the guardian to consent to the proposed sterilization unless the 6 court finds, by clear and convincing evidence beyond a 7 8 reasonable doubt and based on written findings of fact and 9 conclusions of law, that all of the following factors are 10 present:

(1) The ward lacks decisional capacity regarding theproposed sterilization.

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(2) The ward is fertile and capable of procreation.

14 (3) The benefits to the ward of the proposed15 sterilization outweigh the harm.

16 (4) The court has considered less intrusive17 alternatives and found them to be inadequate in this case.

(5) The proposed sterilization is in the best interest
of the ward. In considering the ward's best interest, the
court shall consider the following factors:

(A) The possibility that the ward will experience
trauma or psychological damage if he or she has a child
and, conversely, the possibility of trauma or
psychological damage from the proposed sterilization.

(B) The ward is or is likely to become sexuallyactive.

1 (C) The inability of the ward to understand 2 reproduction or contraception and the likely 3 permanence of that inability.

4 (D) Any other factors that assist the court in 5 determining the best interest of the ward relative to 6 the proposed sterilization.

7 (Source: P.A. 96-272, eff. 1-1-10.)".

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