

COLORADO RULES OF PROBATE PROCEDURE

PART 1. GENERAL

Rule 1. Scope of Rules – How Known and Cited

Rule 2. Definitions [Reserved]

Rule 3. Registry of Court – Payments and Withdrawals

Rule 4. Delegation of Powers to Clerk and Deputy Clerk

Rule 5. Rules of Court

Rule 6. Reserved

Rule 7. Reserved

Rule 8. Reserved

Rule 9. Reserved

PART 2. PLEADINGS

Rule 10. Judicial Department Forms

Rule 11. Correction of Clerical Errors

Rule 12. Petitions Must Indicate Persons Under Legal Disability

Rule 13. Reserved

Rule 14. Reserved

Rule 15. Reserved

Rule 16. Reserved

Rule 17. Reserved

Rule 18. Reserved

Rule 19. Reserved

PART 3. NOTICE

Rule 20. Process and Notice

Rule 21. Demands and Requests for Notice

Rule 22. Constitutional Adequacy of Notice

Rule 23. Waiver of Notice

Rule 24. Determination of Matters by Hearing Without Appearance

Rule 25. Notice of Formal Proceedings Terminating Estates

Rule 26. Conservatorship – Closing

Rule 27. Reserved

Rule 28. Reserved

Rule 29. Reserved

PART 4. FIDUCIARIES

Rule 30. Change of Contact Information

Rule 31. Accountings and Reports

Rule 32. Appointment of Nonresident – Power of Attorney

- Rule 33. Bond and Surety
- Rule 34. Reserved
- Rule 35. Reserved
- Rule 36. Reserved
- Rule 37. Reserved
- Rule 38. Reserved
- Rule 39. Reserved

PART 5. CONTESTED PROCEEDINGS

- Rule 40. Discovery
- Rule 41. Jury Trial – Demand and Waiver
- Rule 42. Objections to Accounting, Final Settlement, Distribution or Discharge
- Rule 43. Reserved
- Rule 44. Reserved
- Rule 45. Reserved
- Rule 46. Reserved
- Rule 47. Reserved
- Rule 48. Reserved
- Rule 49. Reserved

PART 6. DECEDENT’S ESTATES

- Rule 50. Wills – Deposit for Safekeeping and Withdrawals
- Rule 51. Transfer of Lodged Wills
- Rule 52. Informal Probate – Separate Writings
- Rule 53. Heirs and Devisees – Unknown, Missing or Nonexistent – Notice to Attorney General
- Rule 54. Supervised Administration – Scope of Supervision – Inventory and Accounting
- Rule 55. Court Order Supporting Deed of Distribution
- Rule 56. Foreign Personal Representatives
- Rule 57. Reserved
- Rule 58. Reserved
- Rule 59. Reserved

PART 7. PROTECTIVE PROCEEDINGS

- Rule 60. Physicians’ Letters or Professional Evaluation
- Rule 61. Financial Plan with Inventory and Motion for Approval – Conservatorships
- Rule 62. Court Approval of Settlement of Claims of Persons Under Disability
- Rule 63. Foreign Conservators
- Rule 64. Reserved
- Rule 65. Reserved
- Rule 66. Reserved
- Rule 67. Reserved
- Rule 68. Reserved
- Rule 69. Reserved

PART 8. TRUSTS

Rule 70. Trust Registration – Amendment, Release and Transfer

Rule 71. Reserved

Rule 72. Reserved

Rule 73. Reserved

Rule 74. Reserved

Rule 75. Reserved

Rule 76. Reserved

Rule 77. Reserved

Rule 78. Reserved

Rule 79. Reserved

PART 1. GENERAL

Rule 1. Scope of Rules - How Known and Cited

(a) Procedure Governed. These rules govern the procedure in the probate court for the city and county of Denver and district courts when sitting in probate. In case of conflict between these rules and the Colorado Rules of Civil Procedure (C.R.C.P.), or between these rules and any local rules of probate procedure, these rules will control.

(b) How Known and Cited. These rules will be known and cited as the Colorado Rules of Probate Procedure, or C.R.P.P.

(c) In General. “Colorado Probate Code” means Articles 10 to 17 of Title 15 of the Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S.). Except as otherwise provided, terms used in these rules are defined in the applicable sections of Title 15, C.R.S., as amended.

Rule 2. Definitions [Reserved]

Rule 3. Registry of Court – Payments and Withdrawals

Payments into and withdrawals from the registry of the court must be made only upon order of court.

Rule 4. Delegation of Powers to Clerk and Deputy Clerk

(a) The court by written order may, in addition to duties and powers exercised as registrar in informal proceedings, delegate to the clerk or deputy clerk any one or more of the following duties, powers and authorities to be exercised under the supervision of the court:

- (1) To appoint fiduciaries and to issue letters, if there is no written objection to the appointment or issuance on file;
- (2) To set a date for hearing on any matter and to vacate any such setting;
- (3) To issue dedimus to take testimony of a witness to a will;
- (4) To approve the bond of a fiduciary;
- (5) To appoint a guardian ad litem, subject to the provisions of law;
- (6) To certify copies of documents filed in the court;
- (7) To order a deposited will lodged in the records and to notify the named personal representative;
- (8) To enter an order for service by mailing or by publication where such order is authorized

by law or by the Colorado Rules of Civil Procedure;

(9) To correct any clerical error in documents filed in the court;

(10) To appoint a special administrator in connection with the claim of a fiduciary;

(11) To order a will transferred to another jurisdiction pursuant to Rule 51 herein;

(12) To admit wills to formal probate and to determine heirship, if there is no objection to such admission or determination by any interested person;

(13) To enter estate closing orders in formal proceedings, if there is no objection to entry of such order by any interested person;

(14) To issue a citation to appear to be examined regarding assets alleged to be concealed, etc., pursuant to § 15-12-723, C.R.S.;

(15) To order an estate reopened for subsequent administration pursuant to § 15-12-1008, C.R.S.;

(16) To enter other orders upon the stipulation of all interested persons.

(b) All orders and proceedings by the clerk or deputy clerk under this rule must be made part of the permanent record.

(c) Any person in interest affected by an order entered or action taken under the authority of this rule may have the matter heard by the judge by filing a motion for such hearing within 14 days after the entering of the order or the taking of the action. Upon the filing of such a motion, the order or action in question must be vacated and the motion placed on the calendar of the court for as early a hearing as possible, and the matter must then be heard by the judge. The judge may, within the same 14 day period referred to above, vacate the order or action on the court's own motion. If a motion for hearing by the judge is not filed within the 14 day period, or the order or action is not vacated by the judge on the court's own motion within such period, the order or action of the clerk or deputy clerk will be final as of its date subject to applicable rights of appeal. The acts, records, orders, and judgments of the clerk or deputy clerk not vacated pursuant to the foregoing provision will have the same force, validity, and effect as if made by the judge.

Rule 5. Rules of Court

(a) Repeal of Local rules. All local probate rules are hereby repealed. Local rules may be enacted pursuant to C.R.C.P. 121(b).

(b) Procedure not otherwise specified. If no procedure is specifically prescribed by rule or statute, the court may proceed in any lawful manner not inconsistent with these rules of probate procedure and the Colorado Probate Code and must look to the Colorado Rules of Civil Procedure and to the applicable law if no rule of probate procedure exists.

Rule 6. Reserved
Rule 7. Reserved
Rule 8. Reserved
Rule 9. Reserved

PART 2. PLEADINGS

Rule 10. Judicial Department Forms

The Judicial Department Forms (JDF) approved by the Supreme Court should be used where applicable. Any pleading, document, or form filed in a probate proceeding should, insofar as possible, substantially follow the format and content of the approved JDF, if applicable.

Rule 11. Correction of Clerical Errors

(a) Documents with clerical errors filed with the court may be made the subject of a written request for correction by filing JDF 740 or a document that substantially follows the format and content of the approved JDF, if applicable, and may file a corrected document.

(b) A clerical error may include, but is not limited to:

- (1) Errors in captions;
- (2) Misspellings;
- (3) Errors in dates, other than dates for settings, hearings, and limitations periods; or
- (4) Transposition errors.

(c) A clerical error does not include the addition of an argument, allegation, or fact that has legal significance. If the court is not satisfied that a written request for correction is a clerical error, the request may be denied.

Rule 12. Petitions Must Indicate Persons Under Legal Disability

(a) **Petition Requirements and Notice.** If a person under legal disability has any interest in the subject matter of a petition which requires the issuance of notice, the petition must state:

- (1) That an interested person is under legal disability as defined in subsection (b) below;
- (2) The name, age, and residence of the person under legal disability; and
- (3) The name of the guardian, conservator, or personal representative, if any.

(b) **Legal Disability.** A person under legal disability includes, but is not limited to, a person who is:

- (1) Under 18 years of age; or
- (2) Incompetent or incapacitated to such an extent that the individual is incapable of adequately representing his or her own interest.

Rule 13. Reserved
Rule 14. Reserved
Rule 15. Reserved
Rule 16. Reserved
Rule 17. Reserved
Rule 18. Reserved
Rule 19. Reserved

PART 3. NOTICE

Rule 20. Process and Notice

The issuance, service, and proof of service of any process, notice, or order of court under the Colorado Probate Code will be governed by the provisions of the Colorado Probate Code and these rules. When no provision of the Colorado Probate Code or these rules is applicable, the Colorado Rules of Civil Procedure will govern. Except when otherwise ordered by the court in any specific case or when service is by publication, if notice of a hearing on any petition or other pleading is required, the petition or other pleading, unless previously served, must be served with the notice. When served by publication, the notice must briefly state the nature of the relief requested. The petition or other pleading need not be attached to or filed with the proof of service, waiver of notice, or waiver of service.

Rule 21. Demands and Requests for Notice

(a) Demands for Notice. Demands for notice in decedents' estates are governed by § 15-12-204, C.R.S. After a demand for notice has been filed with the court, the clerk or registrar may thereafter take any authorized action, including, accepting and acting upon an application for informal appointment of a personal representative.

(b) Requests for Notice. Requests for Notice in Protective Proceedings are governed by § 15-14-116, C.R.S.

Rule 22. Constitutional Adequacy of Notice

When statutory notice is deemed by the court to be constitutionally inadequate, the court must provide on a case-by-case basis for such notice as will meet constitutional requirements.

Rule 23. Waiver of Notice

Unless otherwise approved by the court, a waiver of notice where authorized must identify the nature of the hearings or other matters to which the waiver of notice applies.

Rule 24. Determination of Matters by Hearing Without Appearance

(a) A hearing without appearance is a setting before or with the court for a ruling without the appearance of the parties.

(b) Unless otherwise required by statute, these rules, or court order, any appropriate matter may be set for a hearing without appearance.

(c) The procedure governing a hearing without appearance is as follows:

(1) Attendance at the hearing without appearance is not required or expected.

(2) Any interested person wishing to object to the requested action set forth in the court filing

attached to the notice must file a specific written objection with the court at or before the hearing, and must serve a copy of the objection on the person requesting the court order and all persons listed on the notice of hearing without appearance. Form JDF 722, or a form that substantially conforms to JDF 722, may be used and will be sufficient.

(3) If no objection is filed, the court may take action on the matter without further notice or hearing.

(4) If any objection is filed, the objecting party must, within 14 days after filing the objection, contact the court to set the objection for an appearance hearing. If a hearing is scheduled, the objecting party must file a notice of hearing, and serve a copy on all persons listed on the notice of hearing without appearance. Failure to timely set the objection for an appearance hearing as required will result in action by the court as set forth in subsection (d).

(d) Upon the filing of an objection, the court may, in its discretion:

(1) Rule upon the written filings and briefs submitted;

(2) Require oral argument;

(3) Require an evidentiary hearing;

(4) Order the petitioner, movant, objector, and any other interested person who has entered an appearance to participate in alternative dispute resolution; or

(5) Enter any other orders the court deems appropriate.

(e) The Notice of a Hearing Without Appearance, together with copies of the court filing and proposed order must be served on all interested persons no less than 14 days prior to the setting of the hearing and must include a clear statement of this rule governing a hearing without appearance. Form JDF 712 or JDF 963, or a form that substantially conforms to such forms, may be used and will be sufficient.

COMMENTS

2018

[1] Before the 2018 amendments, the rule was titled “Non-Appearance Hearings,” which engendered confusion for practitioners and self-represented parties as it referred to a hearing, which denotes an appearance, and then directed the party not to appear before the court. As a part of the 2018 amendments, the title of the rule changed to “Determination of Matters by Hearing Without Appearance” that more appropriately describes the actual practice; the rule is useful for matters required by statute to have a hearing when a party appearance is not required or mandated.

[2] The pre-2018 rule directed that matters which are “routine and unopposed” may be scheduled for hearing without appearance, however, there was no definition contained within the rule for what matters are considered to be “routine and unopposed.” With the 2018 amendments, language defining a hearing without appearance was added in subsection (a), and language generally describing what may be set on the docket in subsection (b). Motions for summary judgment and motions to dismiss are not appropriate for placement on a docket for hearing without appearance, and these motions should be filed using the procedure set forth in C.R.C.P. 121§ 1-15.

[3] The rule does not contain a requirement that the court rule on a motion on the date scheduled for hearing without an appearance. There is confusion among practitioners and self-represented parties regarding when the court is required to rule on a matter scheduled under this rule; the court may rule on these matters in due course after the date for hearing without appearance has passed. This rule allows for expediting many matters before the probate court while specifying that matters may be determined by the probate court without an appearance hearing, such as accommodating a real estate closing or other deadline such as a move-in date for a party.

[4] Matters denoted as requiring immediate action should not be scheduled for hearing without appearance.

[5] Concerns were raised regarding the shortened time frame in subsection (c)(4) for ruling on motions contained within the rule and whether the failure of a party or counsel to respond within these time frames would unfairly prejudice a party. Practitioners should bear in mind their ethical obligations to opposing parties and counsel when choosing to schedule a motion that may be opposed on the docket for hearing without appearance. Scheduling a motion on the docket for hearing without an appearance for determination on the merits where no responsive pleading has been filed with the court increases judicial economy by placing an opposing party or counsel on notice that a ruling may be entered unless a responsive pleading is filed with the court.

Rule 25. Notice of Formal Proceedings Terminating Estates

The notice of hearing on a petition under § 15-12-1001 or § 15-12-1002, C.R.S., must include statements:

(a) That interested persons have the responsibility to protect their own rights and interests within the time and in the manner provided by the Colorado Probate Code, including the appropriateness of claims paid, the compensation of personal representatives, attorneys, and others, and the distribution of estate assets, because the court will not review or adjudicate these or other matters unless specifically requested to do so by an interested person; and

(b) That if any interested person desires to object to any matter such person must file specific written objections at or before the hearing and must serve the personal representative with a copy pursuant to C.R.C.P. 5.

Rule 26. Conservatorship – Closing

Notice of the hearing on a petition for termination of conservatorship must be served on the protected person, if then living, and all other interested persons, as defined by law or by the court pursuant to § 15-10-201(27), C.R.S., if any. Such hearing may be held pursuant to Rule 24.

Rule 27. Reserved

Rule 28. Reserved

Rule 29. Reserved

PART 4. FIDUCIARIES

Rule 30. Change of Contact Information

(a) Every fiduciary must promptly notify the court of any change to the name, physical or mailing address, e-mail address, or telephone number of:

- (1) The fiduciary; or
- (2) The ward or protected person.

(b) Notice to the court will be accomplished by filing the appropriate JDF or a form that substantially conforms to the JDF.

Rule 31. Accountings and Reports

(a) A fiduciary accounting or report must contain sufficient information to put interested persons on notice as to all significant transactions affecting administration during the accounting period.

(b) An accounting or report prepared by a personal representative, conservator, guardian, trustee, or other fiduciary must show with reasonable detail:

- (1) The receipts and disbursements for the period covered by the accounting or report;
 - (2) The assets remaining at the end of the period; and
 - (3) All other transactions affecting administration during the accounting or report period.
- (c) Accountings and reports that substantially conform to JDF 942 for decedents' estates, JDF 885 for conservatorships, JDF 834 for minor guardianships, and JDF 850 for adult guardianships will be considered acceptable as to both content and format for purposes of this rule. All other fiduciary accountings and reports must comply with the requirements of subsection (b).

(d) The court may require the fiduciary to produce supporting evidence for any and all transactions.

Rule 32. Appointment of Nonresident – Power of Attorney

Any person, resident or nonresident of this state, who is qualified to act under the Colorado Probate Code may be appointed as a fiduciary. When appointment is made of a nonresident, the person appointed must file an irrevocable power of attorney designating the clerk of the court and the clerk's successors in office, as the person upon whom all notices and process issued by a court or tribunal in the state of Colorado may be served, with like effect as personal service on such fiduciary, in relation to any suit, matter, cause, hearing, or thing, affecting or pertaining to the proceeding in regard to which the fiduciary was appointed. The power of attorney required by the provisions of this rule must set forth the address of the nonresident fiduciary. The clerk

must promptly forward, by certified, registered, or ordinary first-class mail any notice or process served upon him or her, to the fiduciary at the address last provided in writing to the clerk. The clerk must file a certificate of service. Such service will be deemed complete 14 days after mailing. The clerk may require the person issuing or serving such notice or process to furnish sufficient copies, and the person desiring service must advance the costs and mailing expenses of the clerk.

Rule 33. Bond and Surety

A fiduciary must file any required bond, or complete other arrangements for security before letters are issued. If there is a substantial deviation in the value of assets under protection or administration the fiduciary must petition the court for a review of the bond.

Rule 34. Reserved

Rule 35. Reserved

Rule 36. Reserved

Rule 37. Reserved

Rule 38. Reserved

Rule 39. Reserved

PART 5. CONTESTED PROCEEDINGS

Rule 40. Discovery

(a) This rule establishes the provisions and structure for discovery in all proceedings seeking relief under Title 15, C.R.S. Nothing in this rule will alter the court's authority and ability to direct proportional limitations on discovery or to impose a case management structure or enter other discovery orders. Upon appropriate motion or *sua sponte*, the court may apply the Colorado Rules of Civil Procedure in whole or in part, may fashion discovery rules applicable to specific proceedings, and may apply different discovery rules to different parts of the proceeding.

(b) Unless otherwise ordered by the court, the parties may engage in the discovery provided by C.R.C.P. 27 through 36. Any discovery conducted in Title 15 proceedings prior to the issuance of a case management or other discovery order will be subject to C.R.C.P. 26(a)(2)(A), 26(a)(2)(B), 26(a)(4) and (5), and 26(b) through (g). However, due to the unique, expedited and often exigent circumstances in which probate proceedings take place, C.R.C.P. 16, 16.1, 16.2, and 26(a)(1) do not apply to probate proceedings unless ordered by the court or stipulated to by the parties.

(c) C.R.C.P. 37, 45, and 121 § 1-12 are applicable to proceedings under Title 15.

(d) Notwithstanding subsections (a) through (c) of this rule, subpoenas and discovery directed to a respondent in proceedings under Title 15, Article 14, Part 3, must not be permitted without leave of court, or until a petition for appointment of a guardian has been granted under § 15-14-311, C.R.S.

Rule 41. Jury Trial – Demand and Waiver

If a jury trial is permitted by law, any jury demand must be filed with the court, and the requisite fee paid, before the matter is first set for trial. The demanding party must pay the requisite jury fee upon the filing of the demand. Failure of a party to file and serve a demand for jury trial and pay the requisite fee as provided in this rule will constitute a waiver of trial by jury as provided in C.R.C.P. 38(e).

Rule 42. Objections to Accounting, Final Settlement, Distribution or Discharge

(a) If any interested person desires to object to any accounting, the final settlement or distribution of an estate, the discharge of a fiduciary, or any other matter, the interested person must file specific written objections at or before the hearing thereon, and shall serve all interested persons with copies of the objections.

(b) If the matter is uncontested and set for a hearing without appearance, any interested person wishing to object must file specific written objections with the court at or before the hearing, and must serve all interested persons with copies of the specific written objections. An objector must set an appearance hearing in accordance with Rule 24.

(c) If the matter is set for an appearance hearing, the objector must file specific written objections 14 or more days before the scheduled hearing. If the objector fails to provide copies of the specific written objections within the required time frame, the petitioner is entitled to a continuance of the hearing.

Rule 43. Reserved

Rule 44. Reserved

Rule 45. Reserved

Rule 46. Reserved

Rule 47. Reserved

Rule 48. Reserved

Rule 49. Reserved

PART 6. DECEDENT'S ESTATES

Rule 50. Wills – Deposit for Safekeeping and Withdrawals

A will of a living person tendered to the court for safekeeping in accordance with § 15-11-515, C.R.S., must be placed in a “Deposited Will File” and a certificate of deposit issued. In the testator's lifetime, the deposited will may be withdrawn only in strict accordance with § 15-11-515, C.R.S. After the testator's death, a deposited will must be transferred to the “Lodged Will File.”

Rule 51. Transfer of Lodged Wills

If a petition under § 15-11-516, C.R.S., to transfer a will is filed and if the requested transfer is to a court within this state, no notice need be given; if the requested transfer is to a court outside this state, notice must be given to the person nominated as personal representative and such other persons as the court may direct. No filing fee will be charged for this petition, but the petitioner must pay any other costs of transferring the original will to the proper court.

Rule 52. Informal Probate – Separate Writings

The existence of one or more separate written statements disposing of tangible personal property under the provisions of § 15-11-513, C.R.S., will not cause informal probate to be declined under the provisions of § 15-12-304, C.R.S.

Rule 53. Heirs and devisees – Unknown, Missing or Nonexistent – Notice to Attorney General

In a decedent's estate, whenever it appears that there is an unknown heir or devisee, or that the address of any heir or devisee is unknown, or that there is no person qualified to receive a devise or distributive share from the estate, the personal representative must promptly notify the attorney general. Thereafter, the attorney general must be given the same information and notice required to be given to persons qualified to receive a devise or distributive share. When making any payment to the state treasurer of any devise or distributive share, the personal representative must include a copy of the court order obtained under § 15-12-914, C.R.S.

Rule 54. Supervised Administration – Scope of Supervision – Inventory and Accounting

(a) In considering the scope of supervised administration under § 15-12-501, C.R.S., the court must order such supervision as deemed necessary, after considering the reasons for the request.

(b) If supervised administration is ordered, the personal representative must file with the court and serve interested persons:

(1) An inventory;

(2) Annual interim accountings;

- (3) A final accounting; and
- (4) Other documentation as ordered by the court.

Rule 55. Court Order Supporting Deed of Distribution

When a court order is requested to vest title in a distributee free from the rights of other persons interested in the estate, such order must not be granted ex parte, but must require either the stipulation of all interested persons or notice and hearing, initiated by the requesting party.

COMMENT

2018

Note that Colorado Bar Association Real Estate Title Standard 11.1.7 discusses certain requirements for the vesting of merchantable title in a distributee. A court order is necessary to vest merchantable title in a distributee, free from the rights of all persons interested in the estate to recover the property in case of an improper distribution. This rule requires a notice and hearing procedure as a condition of issuance of such order. A certified copy of the court's order should be recorded with the deed of distribution. Under the title standard, an order is not required to vest merchantable title in a purchaser for value from or a lender to such distributee. *See* § 38-35-109, C.R.S.

Rule 56. Foreign Personal Representatives

(a) After the death of a nonresident decedent, copies of the documents evidencing appointment of a domiciliary foreign personal representative may be filed as provided in § 15-13-204, C.R.S. Such documents must have been certified, exemplified or authenticated by the appointing foreign court not more than 60 days prior to filing with a Colorado court, and must include copies of all of the following that may have been issued by the foreign court:

- (1) The order appointing the domiciliary foreign personal representative, and
- (2) The letters or other documents evidencing or affecting the domiciliary foreign personal representative's authority to act.

(b) Upon filing such documents and a sworn statement by the domiciliary foreign personal representative stating that no administration, or application or petition for administration, is pending in Colorado, the court must issue a Certificate of Ancillary Filing, attesting that the clerk has in his or her possession the documents referenced in subsection (a) of this rule.

Rule 57. Reserved

Rule 58. Reserved

Rule 59. Reserved

PART 7. PROTECTIVE PROCEEDINGS

Rule 60. Physicians' Letters or Professional Evaluation

Any physician's letter or professional evaluation utilized as the evidentiary basis to support a petition for the appointment of a guardian, conservator or other protective order under Article 14 of the Colorado Probate Code, unless otherwise directed by the court, should contain:

- (a) A description of the nature, type, and extent of the respondent's specific cognitive and functional limitations, if any;
- (b) An evaluation of the respondent's mental and physical condition and, if appropriate, educational potential, adaptive behavior, and social skills;
- (c) A prognosis for improvement and recommendation as to the appropriate treatment or rehabilitation plan; and
- (d) The date of any assessment or examination upon which the report is based.

Rule 61. Financial Plan with Inventory and Motion for Approval – Conservatorships

A Conservator's Financial Plan with Inventory and Motion for Approval must be filed with the court and served on all interested persons. The request for approval of the plan may be set on the hearing without appearance docket, the appearance docket, or not set for hearing and treated as a motion under C.R.C.P. 121.

Rule 62. Court Approval of Settlement of Claims of Persons Under Disability

(a) This rule sets forth procedures by which a court considers requests for approval of the proposed settlement of claims on behalf of a minor or an adult in need of protection pursuant to § 15-14-401, et seq., C.R.S., ("respondent"). In connection with a proceeding brought under this rule, the court must:

- (1) Consider the reasonableness of the proposed settlement and enter appropriate orders as the court finds will serve the best interest of the respondent;
- (2) Ensure that the adult respondent, a minor respondent's parent, an adult respondent's or minor respondent's legal guardian, conservator, other fiduciary, next friend, guardian ad litem, and other interested persons as the court deems proper, have been advised of the finality of the proposed settlement;
- (3) Adjudicate the allowance or disallowance, in whole or in part, of any outstanding liens and claims against settlement funds, including attorney fees; and
- (4) Make protective arrangements for the conservation and use of the net settlement funds, in the best interest of the respondent, taking into account the nature and scope of the proposed settlement, the anticipated duration and nature of the respondent's disability, the cost of any

future medical treatment and care required to treat respondent's disability, and any other relevant factors, pursuant to § 15-14-101, et seq., C.R.S.

(b) Venue for a petition brought under this rule must be in accordance with § 15-14-108(3), C.R.S.

(c) A petition for approval of a proposed settlement of a claim on behalf of the respondent may be filed by an adult respondent, a fiduciary for a respondent, an interested person as defined in § 15-10-201(27), C.R.S., a next friend, or guardian ad litem. The petition must be presented in accordance with the procedures set forth in this rule.

(d) A petition for approval of settlement must include the following information:

(1) Facts.

- A. The respondent's name and address;
- B. The respondent's date of birth;
- C. If the respondent is a minor, the name and contact information of each legal guardian. If the identity or contact information of any legal guardian is unknown, or if any parental rights have been terminated, the petition must so state;
- D. The name and contact information of the respondent's spouse, partner in a civil union, or if the respondent has none, an adult with whom the respondent has resided for more than six months within one year before the filing of the petition;
- E. The name and contact information of any guardian, conservator, custodian, trustee, agent under a power of attorney, or any other court appointed fiduciary for the respondent; and
- F. The date and a brief description of the event or transaction giving rise to the claim.

(2) Claims and Liabilities.

- A. The contact information of each party against whom the respondent may have a claim;
- B. The basis for each of the respondent's claims;
- C. The defenses and counterclaims if any, to the respondent's claims; and
- D. The name and contact information of each insurance company involved in the claim, the type of policy, the policy limits, and the identity of the insured.

(3) Damages.

- A. A description of the respondent's injuries;

- B. The amount of any time missed by the respondent from school or employment and a summary of any lost income resulting from the respondent's injuries;
- C. A summary of any damage to respondent's property;
- D. A summary of any expenses incurred for medical or other care provider services as a result of the respondent's injuries; and
- E. The identification of any person, organization, institution, or state or federal agency that paid any of the respondent's expenses and a summary of any expenses that have been or will be paid by each particular source.

(4) Medical Status.

- A. A description of the respondent's current condition including but not limited to the nature and extent of any disability, disfigurement, or physical or psychological impairments and any current treatments and therapies; and
- B. An explanation of the respondent's prognosis and any anticipated treatments and therapies.

(5) Status of Claims.

- A. For this claim and any other related claim, the status of the claim and if any civil action has been filed, the court, case number, and parties; and
- B. For this claim and any other related claim, identify the amount of the claim and contact information of any party having a subrogation right including any state or federal agency paying or planning to pay benefits to or for the respondent. A list of all subrogation claims and liens against the settlement proceeds must be included as well as a summary of efforts to negotiate them.

(6) Proposed Settlement and Proposed Disposition of Settlement Proceeds.

- A. The name and contact information of any party or entity making and receiving payment under the proposed settlement;
- B. The proposed settlement amount, payment terms, and proposed disposition, including any restrictions on the accessibility of the funds and whether any proceeds will be deposited into a restricted account;
- C. The details of any structured settlement, annuity, insurance policy or trust instrument, including the terms, present value, discount rate, if applicable, payment structure and the identity of the trustee or entity administering such arrangements;
- D. The legal fees and costs being requested to be paid from the settlement proceeds; and

E. Whether there is a need for continuing court supervision, the appointment of a fiduciary or the continuation of an existing fiduciary appointment. The court may appoint a conservator, trustee, or other fiduciary to manage the settlement proceeds or make other protective arrangements in the best interest of the respondent.

(7) Exhibits.

A. The petition must list each exhibit filed with the petition.

B. The following exhibits must be attached to the petition:

(i) A written statement by the respondent's physician or other health care provider, if any. The statement must set forth the information required by subsection (d)(4) of this rule and comply with Rule 60 unless otherwise ordered by the court;

(ii) Relevant legal fee agreements, statement of costs and billing records and billing summary; and

(iii) Any proposed settlement agreements and proposed releases.

C. The court may continue, vacate, or place conditions on approval of the proposed settlement in response to petitioner's failure to include such exhibits.

(e) Notice of a hearing and a copy of the petition must be given in accordance with § 15-14-404(1) and (2), C.R.S., and Rule 20, unless otherwise ordered by the court.

(f) An appearance hearing is required for petitions brought under this rule.

(g) The petitioner, the respondent, and any nominated fiduciary must attend the hearing, unless excused by the court for good cause.

(h) The court may appoint a guardian ad litem, attorney, or other professional to investigate and report to the court, or represent the respondent. The court may order the payment of fees and costs for such guardian ad litem, attorney, or other professional to be paid from the settlement or other sources as may be deemed appropriate by the court.

Rule 63. Foreign Conservators

(a) After the appointment of a conservator for a person who is not a resident of this state, copies of documents evidencing the appointment of such foreign conservator may be filed as provided in § 15-14-433, C.R.S. Such documents must have been certified, exemplified or authenticated by the appointing foreign court not more than 60 days prior to filing with a Colorado court, and must include copies of all of the following:

(1) The order appointing the foreign conservator;

(2) The letters or other documents evidencing or affecting the foreign conservator's authority to act; and

(3) Any bond of foreign conservator.

(b) Upon filing such documents and a sworn statement by the foreign conservator stating that a conservator has not been appointed in this state and that no petition in a protective proceeding is pending in this state concerning the person for whom the foreign conservator was appointed, the court must issue a Certificate of Ancillary Filing, substantially conforming to JDF 892.

Rule 64. Reserved

Rule 65. Reserved

Rule 66. Reserved

Rule 67. Reserved

Rule 68. Reserved

Rule 69. Reserved

PART 8. TRUSTS

Rule 70. Trust Registration – Amendment, Release and Transfer

(a) A trustee must file with the court of current registration an amended trust registration statement to advise the court of any change in the trusteeship, of any change in the principal place of administration, or of termination of the trust.

(b) If the principal place of administration of a trust has been removed from this state, the court may release a trust from registration in this state upon request and after notice to interested parties.

(c) If the principal place of administration of a trust has changed within this state, the trustee may transfer the registration from one court to another within this state by filing in the court to which the registration is transferred an amended trust registration statement with attached thereto a copy of the original trust registration statement and of any amended trust registration statement prior to the current amendment, and by filing in the court from which the registration is being transferred a copy of the amended trust registration statement. The amended statement must indicate that the trust was registered previously in another court of this state and that the registration is being transferred.

Rule 71. Reserved

Rule 72. Reserved

Rule 73. Reserved

Rule 74. Reserved

Rule 75. Reserved

Rule 76. Reserved

Rule 77. Reserved

Rule 78. Reserved

Rule 79. Reserved