

AN AMENDMENT

Bill 24-139, "Coronavirus Support Emergency Amendment Act of 2021"
Bill 24-140, "Coronavirus Support Temporary Amendment Act of 2021"
(Introduced Version)
March 2, 2021

Amendment:

A new Section 505 is added to read as follows:

Sec. 505. Health status and residence of wards.

Subchapter V of Chapter 20 of Title 21 of the District of Columbia Official Code is amended as follows:

(a) The table of contents is amended by adding a new section designation to read as follows:

"§ 21-2047.03. Duty of guardian to inform certain relatives about the health status and residence of a ward."

(b) A new section 21-2047.03 is added to read as follows:

§ 21-2047.03. Duty of guardian to inform certain relatives about the health status and residence of a ward.

"(a) During a period for which a public health emergency has been declared pursuant to section 5a of the District of Columbia Public Emergency Act of 1980, effective October 17, 2002 (D.C. Law 14-194, D.C. Official Code § 7-2304.01), the guardian of a ward shall inform at least one relative of the ward, if one exists pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, as soon as practicable but no later than within 48 hours, of the following events:

"(1) The ward dies;

"(2) The ward is admitted to a medical facility;

"(3) The ward is transferred to acute care;

"(4) The ward is placed on a ventilator;

"(5) The residence of the ward or the location where the ward lives has changed; or

"(6) The ward is staying at a location other than the residence of the ward for a period that exceeds 7 consecutive days.

"(b) In the case of the death of the ward, the guardian shall inform at least one relative of the ward, if one exists, pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, of any funeral arrangements and the location of the final resting place of the ward at least 72 hours before the funeral.

"(c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to exempt a guardian from complying with federal or District privacy laws to which they are otherwise subject.

"(d) This section shall apply only to the relative of a ward:

"(1) Against whom a protective order is not in effect to protect the ward;

"(2) Who has not been found by a court or other state agency to have abused, neglected, or exploited the ward; and

"(3) Who has elected in writing to receive a notice about the ward.

"(e) For the purposes of this section the term:

"(1) "Relative" means a spouse, parent, sibling, child, or domestic partner of the ward.

“(2) “Domestic partner” shall have the same meaning as in section 2(3) of the Health Care Benefits Expansion Act of 1992, effective June 11, 1992 (D.C. Law 9-114; D.C. Official Code § 32-701(3)).”.

Rationale: This restores a section inadvertently deleted from the previous Temporary act, continuing the provision as it has been in effect for the last year.