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KANTOOR VAN DIE STAATSPRESIDENT

No. 1610.

13 Julie 1990

Hierby word bekend gemaak dat die Staatspresident sy goedkeuring geheg het aan die onderstaande Wet wat hierby ter algemene inligting gepubliseer word:—

No. 108 van 1990: Wysigingswet op Regsbelange van Geestesongestelde Persone, 1990.

STATE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

No. 1610.

13 July 1990

It is hereby notified that the State President has assented to the following Act which is hereby published for general information:—

No. 108 of 1990: Mentally Ill Persons' Legal Interests Amendment Act, 1990.

Wet No. 108, 1990 WYSIGINGSWET OP REGSBELANGE VAN GEESTESONGESTELDE PERSONE, 1990

ALGEMENE VERDUIDELIKENDE NOTA:

[] Woorde in vet druk tussen vierkantige hake dui skrappings uit bestaande verordenings aan.

_____ Woorde met 'n volstreep daaronder, dui invoegings in bestaande verordenings aan.

WET

Tot wysiging van die Wet op Geestesgesondheid, 1973, en die Boedelwet, 1965, ten einde verdere voorsiening te maak vir die aanstelling van 'n kurator vir enige geestesongestelde persoon wat nie as geestesongesteld aangehou word of verklaar is of as 'n geestesongestelde gevangene of 'n Presidentspasiënt aangehou word nie; die stel van sekerheid deur 'n kurator verder te reël; die beëindiging van die aanstelling van 'n kurator by herstel van so 'n geestesongestelde persoon te reël; en sekere strawwe te verhoog; en om voorsiening te maak vir aangeleenthede wat daarmee in verband staan.

*(Engelse teks deur die Staatspresident geteken.)
(Goedgekeur op 28 Junie 1990.)*

DAAR WORD BEPAAL deur die Staatspresident en die Parlement van die Republiek van Suid-Afrika, soos volg:—

Wysiging van artikel 56 van Wet 18 van 1973, soos gewysig deur artikel 2 van Wet 3 van 1984

1. Artikel 56 van die Wet op Geestesgesondheid, 1973 (hieronder die Hoofwet 5 genoem), word hierby gewysig—

(a) deur subartikel (1) deur die volgende subartikel te vervang:

“(1) Die hof, indien oortuig dat iemand wat as geestesongesteld aangehou word of verklaar is of as 'n geestesongestelde gevangene of 'n Presidentspasiënt aangehou word, nie in staat is om sy eie sake te behartig nie, kan 'n kurator aanstel om namens hom 'n bepaalde handeling ten opsigte van sy eiendom te verrig of uit te voer of om sy eiendom te versorg of te bestuur of om 'n saak of onderneming van so iemand voort te sit: Met dien verstande dat, as die geraamde waarde van die eiendom nie **[R50 000]** R100 000 ten opsigte van die *corpus* daarvan of **[R10 000]** R24 000 per jaar ten opsigte van inkomste te bowe gaan nie, **[In regter in kamers of]** die Meester of indien die Meester dit verlang 'n regter in kamers die bevoegdhede kan uitoefen wat by hierdie subartikel aan die hof verleen word.”; en

(b) deur die volgende subartikel by te voeg:

“(3) Die Minister kan met die instemming van die Minister van Justisie 20 die bedrae in subartikel (1) vermeld, by kennisgewing in die *Staatskoerant* wysig.”.

Invoeging van artikel 56A in Wet 18 van 1973

2. Die volgende artikel word hierby in die Hoofwet na artikel 56 ingevoeg:

“**Aanstelling van kurator vir sekere geestesongestelde persone wat nie binne bestek van artikel 56 val nie en wat behoeftig is**

56A. (1) Iemand bo die ouderdom van agtien jaar (in hierdie artikel die applikant genoem) kan by die Meester aansoek doen om die aanstelling van 'n kurator vir 'n persoon—

MENTALLY ILL PERSONS' LEGAL INTERESTS AMENDMENT
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GENERAL EXPLANATORY NOTE:

- I** Words in bold type in square brackets indicate omissions from existing enactments.
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- Words underlined with solid line indicate insertions in existing enactments.
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ACT

To amend the Mental Health Act, 1973, and the Administration of Estates Act, 1965, so as to make further provision for the appointment of a curator for a mentally ill person who is not detained as or declared to be mentally ill or not detained as a mentally ill prisoner or a President's patient; to further regulate the furnishing of security by a curator; to regulate the termination of the appointment of a curator on the recovery of such a mentally ill person; and to increase certain fines; and to provide for matters connected therewith.

(*English text signed by the State President.*)
(Assented to 28 June 1990.)

BE IT ENACTED by the State President and the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa, as follows:—

Amendment of section 56 of Act 18 of 1973, as amended by section 2 of Act 3 of 1984

1. Section 56 of the Mental Health Act, 1973 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), is hereby amended—

(a) by the substitution for subsection (1) of the following subsection:

"(1) The court, if satisfied that any person detained as or declared to be mentally ill or detained as a mentally ill prisoner or a President's patient is incapable of managing his own affairs, may appoint a curator to perform or exercise on his behalf any particular act in respect of his property or to take care of or administer his property or to carry on any business or undertaking of such person: Provided that, if the estimated value of the property does not exceed [R50 000] R100 000 in respect of the *corpus* thereof or [R10 000] R24 000 per annum in respect of income, [a judge in chambers or] the Master or if the Master so desires a judge in chambers may exercise the powers conferred upon the court by this section."; and

(b) by the addition of the following subsection:

"(3) The Minister may with the concurrence of the Minister of Justice amend the amounts referred to in subsection (1) by notice in the *Gazette*."

20 Insertion of section 56A in Act 18 of 1973

2. The following section is hereby inserted in the principal Act after section 56:

"Appointment of curator to certain mentally ill persons not falling within ambit of section 56 and who are indigent

56A. (1) Any person over the age of eighteen years (in this section referred to as the applicant) may apply to the Master for the appointment of a curator to a person—

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- (a) wat nie as geestesongesteld aangehou word of verklaar is of as 'n geestesongestelde gevangene of 'n Presidentspasiënt aangehou word nie;
- (b) wat die applikant glo geestesongesteld is in so 'n mate dat hy nie in staat is om sy eie sake te behartig nie; en
- (c) ten opsigte van wie se eiendom die geraamde waarde nie R100 000 ten opsigte van die *corpus* daarvan of R24 000 per jaar ten opsigte van inkomste te bove gaan nie.
- (2) (a) So 'n aansoek moet—
- (i) die gronde uiteensit waarop die applikant glo dat die persoon ten opsigte van wie die aansoek gedoen word, in so 'n mate geestesongesteld is dat hy nie sy eie sake kan behartig nie;
 - (ii) die graad van bloed- of aanverwantskap, na gelang van die geval, vermeld wat bestaan tussen die applikant en die persoon ten opsigte van wie die aansoek gedoen word, en as die applikant nie die eggenoot of eggenote of 'n nabestaande van bedoelde persoon is nie, die rede waarom die aansoek deur die applikant gedoen word en nie deur die eggenoot of eggenote of 'n nabestaande nie;
 - (iii) die geraamde waarde van die eiendom ten opsigte van die *corpus* daarvan of ten opsigte van inkomste van die persoon ten opsigte van wie die aansoek gedoen word, vermeld, en besonderhede van die aard van daardie persoon se eiendom verstrek; en
 - (iv) verklaar dat die applikant gedurende die tydperk van sewe dae wat die datum van die ondertekening van die aansoek onmiddellik voorafgaan, minstens by een geleentheid in die teenwoordigheid van die persoon ten opsigte van wie die aansoek gedoen word, verkeer het.
- (b) Die in paragraaf (a) vermelde aangeleenthede word deur die applikant by beëdigde of plegtige verklaring bevestig.
- (c) Die applikant stel die persoon ten opsigte van wie die aansoek gedoen word minstens 14 dae voordat die aansoek gedoen word per aangetekende pos in kennis dat hy voornemens is om aldus aansoek te doen, en bewys dat kennis aldus gegee is, moet sodanige aansoek vergesel.
- (3) Die aansoek moet binne sewe dae aan die Meester oorhandig word of só gestuur word dat dit die Meester binne sewe dae vanaf die ondertekening daarvan bereik, en moet vergesel gaan van 'n mediese sertifikaat of ander getuienis wat betrekking het op die geestestoestand van die persoon ten opsigte van wie die aansoek gedoen word en sy onvermoë om sy eie sake te behartig.
- (4) (a) Die Meester kan, ten opsigte van die geestestoestand of die finansiële stand van die persoon ten opsigte van wie die aansoek gedoen word, die verdere inligting inwin wat hy nodig vind en in die besonder kan hy die landdros van die distrik waarin daardie persoon is, of waarin hy gewoonlik woonagtig is, versoek om aan hom verslag te doen oor die geestestoestand of die finansiële stand van daardie persoon en om 'n aanbeveling betreffende die aanstelling van 'n kurator vir daardie persoon te doen.
- (b) Die landdros aan wie sodanige versoek deur die Meester gerig is, moet—
- (i) die bykomende ondersoek na die geestestoestand van die persoon ten opsigte van wie die aansoek gedoen word, doen wat hy nodig vind en kan enigiemand oproep om as 'n getuie voor hom te verskyn om met betrekking tot die geestestoestand van daardie persoon te getuig;
 - (ii) die finansiële stand van die betrokke persoon ondersoek.
- (c) Iemand wat ingevolge paragraaf (b) opgeroep is en wat sonder voldoende rede versuim om voor die landdros te verskyn, is aan 'n misdryf skuldig.

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- (a) who is not detained as or declared to be mentally ill or not detained as a mentally ill prisoner or a President's patient;
- (b) whom the applicant believes to be suffering from mental illness to such a degree that he is incapable of managing his own affairs; and
- (c) in respect of whose property the estimated value does not exceed R100 000 in respect of the *corpus* thereof or R24 000 per annum in respect of income.
- (2) (a) Such application shall—
- (i) set out the grounds on which the applicant believes that the person in respect of whom the application is made is mentally ill to such a degree that he is incapable of managing his own affairs;
- (ii) state the degree in which the applicant is related by consanguinity or affinity, as the case may be, to the person in respect of whom the application is made, and if the applicant is not the husband or wife or a near relative of such person, the reason why the application is made by the applicant and not by the husband or wife or a near relative;
- (iii) state the estimated value of the property in respect of the *corpus* thereof or in respect of income of the person in respect of whom the application is made, and furnish particulars of the nature of that person's property; and
- (iv) state that during the period of seven days immediately preceding the date of the signing of the application, the applicant has on at least one occasion been in the presence of the person in respect of whom the application is made.
- (b) The matters referred to in paragraph (a) shall be verified by the applicant by affidavit or solemn declaration.
- (c) The applicant shall by registered post give notice to the person in respect of whom the application is made at least 14 days before the application is made that he intends so applying, and proof that notice has been so given, shall accompany such application.
- (3) The application shall be handed to the Master within seven days or be transmitted in such a way that it reaches the Master within seven days of the signing thereof and shall be accompanied by a medical certificate or other evidence relating to the mental condition of the person in respect of whom the application is made and his inability to manage his own affairs.
- (4) (a) The Master may, in respect of the mental condition or the financial standing of the person in respect of whom the application is made, obtain such further information as he may deem necessary and he may, in particular, request the magistrate of the district in which such person is, or in which he is ordinarily resident, to report to him with regard to the mental condition or the financial standing of such person and to make a recommendation concerning the appointment of a curator to such person.
- (b) The magistrate to whom such request is directed by the Master shall—
- (i) make such additional enquiry into the mental condition of the person in respect of whom the application is made as he may deem necessary and may summon any person to appear before him as a witness to testify with regard to the mental condition of such person;
- (ii) inquire into the financial standing of the person concerned.
- (c) Any person summoned under paragraph (b) and who without sufficient cause fails to appear before the magistrate, shall be guilty of an offence.

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(5) Indien die Meester oortuig is dat die persoon ten opsigte van wie die aansoek gedoen word—

(a) 'n persoon is wat nie as geestesongesteld aangehou word of verklaar is of as 'n geestesongestelde gevangene of 'n Presidentspasiënt aangehou word nie;

(b) geestesongesteld is in so 'n mate dat hy nie in staat is om sy eie sake te behartig nie; en

(c) nie eiendom besit waarvan die geraamde waarde R100 000 ten opsigte van die *corpus* daarvan of R24 000 per jaar ten opsigte van inkomste te bowe gaan nie,

kan hy 'n kurator aanstel om namens daardie persoon 'n bepaalde handeling ten opsigte van daardie persoon se eiendom te verrig of uit te voer of om daardie persoon se eiendom te versorg of te bestuur of om 'n saak of onderneming van daardie persoon voort te sit.

(6) Die Meester kan—

(a) op versoek van die applikant; of

(b) indien hy dit andersins nodig ag,

die aansoek na 'n regter in kamers verwys wat die bevoegdhede kan uitoefen wat by subartikel (5) aan die Meester verleen word.

(7) Die bepalings van artikel 56 (2) is *mutatis mutandis* van toepassing met betrekking tot die aanstelling van 'n kurator ingevolge hierdie artikel.

(8) Die Minister kan met die instemming van die Minister van Justisie die bedrae in subartikels (1) en (5) (c) vermeld, by kennisgewing in die Staatskoerant wysig.”.

Wysiging van artikel 57 van Wet 18 van 1973

3. Artikel 57 van die Hoofwet word hierby gewysig—

(a) deur subartikel (1) deur die volgende subartikel te vervang:

“(1) Behoudens die bepalings van artikel 57A eindig die bevoegdhede, pligte en werkzaamhede van die Meester en die kurator **[eindig]** nie 30 alvorens die pasiënt ontslaan word soos deur hierdie Wet bepaal en dit uit die sertifikaat van die superintendent van die inrigting waarin hy aangehou is of, in die geval van 'n pasiënt wat elders as in 'n inrigting aangehou is, van die persoon in wie se mediese sorg hy was, blyk dat hy in staat is om sy eie sake te behartig nie: Met dien verstande dat die kurator van sy amp onthef word slegs nadat hy sy pligte tot bevrediging van die Meester afgehandel het.”; en

(b) deur die volgende voorbehoudsbepaling by subartikel (3) te voeg:

“Met dien verstande dat die Meester sekerheid van 'n kurator kragtens artikel 56A aangestel, vereis slegs indien hy oortuig is dat dit in die 40 omstandighede van die geval noodsaaklik is om dit te doen.”.

Invoeging van artikel 57A in Wet 18 van 1973

4. Die volgende artikel word hierby in die Hoofwet na artikel 57 ingevoeg:

“Beëindiging van aanstelling van kurator in artikel 56A vermeld, by herstel van geestesongestelde persoon

57A. (1) 'n Persoon ten opsigte van wie 'n kurator aangestel is ingevolge artikel 56A en wat sodanig van sy geestesongesteldheid herstel het dat hy weer in staat is om self sy sake te behartig, kan skriftelik aansoek doen by die Meester om beëindiging van daardie aanstelling, en die Meester moet, indien hy van oordeel is dat die aansoeker genoegsaam herstel het dat hy in staat is om sy eie sake te behartig, die aanstelling beëindig: Met dien verstande dat 'n kurator van sy amp onthef word slegs nadat hy sy pligte tot bevrediging van die Meester afgehandel het.

(2) 'n Aansoek bedoel in subartikel (1) gaan vergesel van 'n mediese sertifikaat wat vermeld—

(a) dat 'n mediese ondersoek van die aansoeker plaasgevind het, en die datum van sodanige ondersoek;

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- (5) If the Master is satisfied that the person in respect of whom the application is made—
- (a) is a person who is not detained or declared to be mentally ill or not detained as a mentally ill prisoner or a President's patient;
 - (b) is mentally ill to such a degree that he is incapable of managing his own affairs; and
 - (c) does not possess property the estimated value of which does not exceed R100 000 in respect of the *corpus* thereof or R24 000 per annum in respect of income,
- he may appoint a curator to perform or exercise on behalf of such person any particular act in respect of the property of such person or to take care of or administer the property of such person or to carry on any business or undertaking of such person.
- (6) The Master may—
- (a) on request of the applicant; or
 - (b) if he otherwise deems it necessary, refer the application to a judge in chambers who may exercise the powers conferred upon the Master by subsection (5).
- (7) The provisions of section 56 (2) shall apply *mutatis mutandis* with regard to the appointment of a curator under this section.
- (8) The Minister may with the concurrence of the Minister of Justice amend the amounts referred to in subsections (1) and (5) (c) by notice in the *Gazette*.”.

Amendment of section 57 of Act 18 of 1973

- 25 3. Section 57 of the principal Act is hereby amended—
- (a) by the substitution for subsection (1) of the following subsection:
- “(1) Subject to the provisions of section 57A the powers, duties and functions of the Master and the curator shall not cease until the patient is discharged as provided by this Act and it appears from the certificate of the superintendent of the institution in which he was detained or, in the case of a patient detained elsewhere than in an institution, of the person in whose medical care he was, that he is capable of managing his own affairs: Provided that the curator shall be discharged from office only after he has completed his duties to the satisfaction of the Master.”; and
- (b) by the addition to subsection (3) of the following proviso:
- “Provided that the Master shall require security from a curator appointed under section 56A only if he is satisfied that, in the circumstances of the case, it is necessary to do so.”

Insertion of section 57A in Act 18 of 1973

- 40 4. The following section is hereby inserted in the principal Act after section 57:
- “Termination of appointment of curator referred to in section 56A on recovery of mentally ill person**
- 57A. (1) A person in respect of whom a curator has been appointed in terms of section 56A and who has recovered from his mental illness to such an extent that he is once again capable of managing his own affairs, may in writing apply to the Master to terminate that appointment, and the Master shall, if he is satisfied that the applicant has recovered sufficiently so that he is capable of managing his own affairs, terminate the appointment: Provided that a curator shall be discharged from office only after he has completed his duties to the satisfaction of the Master.
- (2) An application referred to in subsection (1) shall be accompanied by a medical certificate stating—
- (a) that a medical examination of the applicant has taken place, and the date of such examination;

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- (b) wat die bevinding ten aansien van die geestestoestand van die aansoeker tydens die ondersoek was; en
(c) wat die huidige sowel as die verwagte toekomstige vermoë van die aansoeker is om self sy sake te behartig.

(3) Die Meester kan die verdere inligting inwin wat hy nodig vind ten einde die geestestoestand en die vermoë van die aansoeker om self sy sake te behartig, te bepaal.”.

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Wysiging van artikel 67 van Wet 18 van 1973**5. Artikel 67 van die Hoofwet word hierby gewysig—**

- (a) deur subartikel (1) deur die volgende subartikel te vervang:

“(1) Iemand wat ’n bepaling van hierdie Wet oortree ten opsigte waarvan geen straf uitdruklik voorgeskryf is nie, is by skuldigbevinding strafbaar met ’n boete van hoogstens [honderd rand] R1 000 of met gevengenisstraf vir ’n tydperk van hoogstens drie maande.”; en

- (b) deur subartikel (2) deur die volgende subartikel te vervang:

“(2) Iemand wat ’n bepaling van artikels 61 tot en met 66 oortree, is by skuldigbevinding strafbaar met ’n boete van hoogstens [vyfhonderd rand] R8 000 of met gevengenisstraf vir ’n tydperk van hoogstens twee jaar of met sodanige gevengenisstraf sonder die keuse van ’n boete of met sodanige boete sowel as sodanige gevengenisstraf.”.

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Wysiging van artikel 73 van Wet 66 van 1965, soos gewysig deur artikel 17 van Wet 86 van 1983**6. Artikel 73 van die Boedelwet, 1965, word hierby gewysig deur paragraaf (b) van subartikel (1) deur die volgende paragraaf te vervang:**

“(b) in enige geval waarin ’n Kamerhof luidens die voorbehoudsbepaling by artikel 56 (1) van die Wet op Geestesgesondheid, 1973 (Wet No. 18 van 1973), bevoeg sou wees om ’n kurator aan te stel, of in enige geval waarin die Meester ingevolge die bepaling van artikel 56A van voormalde Wet bevoeg sou wees om ’n kurator aan te stel, of”.

Wysiging van artikel 77 van Wet 66 van 1965, soos gewysig deur artikel 18 van Wet 86 van 1983**7. Artikel 77 van die Boedelwet, 1965, word hierby gewysig deur subartikel (1) deur die volgende subartikel te vervang:**

“(1) Iedere persoon wat volgens die bepaling van artikel 72 (1) (d) of (2) of kragtens artikel 73 of 74 as voog of kurator aangestel is of moet word, moet, behoudens die voorbehoudsbepaling by artikel 57 (3) van die Wet op Geestesgesondheid, 1973 (Wet No. 18 van 1973), alvorens ’n voogdybrief of ’n brief van kuratele uitgereik of onder ampseël onderteken word of ’n endossement aangebring word, na gelang van die geval, en te eniger tyd daarna wanneer deur die Meester daartoe vereis, tot bevrediging van die Meester sekerheid of verdere sekerheid stel tot ’n bedrag wat die Meester bepaal, vir die behoorlike verrigting van sy werkzaamhede.”.

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Kort titel**8. Hierdie Wet heet die Wysigingswet op Regsbelange van Geestesongestelde Persone, 1990.**

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- (b) the finding in respect of the mental condition of the applicant during the examination; and
(c) the present as well as the expected future ability of the applicant to manage his own affairs.
- 5 (3) The Master may obtain such further information as he may deem necessary in order to determine the mental condition and the ability of the applicant to manage his own affairs.”.

Amendment of section 67 of Act 18 of 1973

5. Section 67 of the principal Act is hereby amended—
10 (a) by the substitution for subsection (1) of the following subsection:
“(1) Any person who contravenes any provision of this Act in respect of which no penalty is expressly provided shall on conviction be liable to a fine not exceeding [one hundred rand] R1 000 or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months.”; and
15 (b) by the substitution for subsection (2) of the following subsection:
“(2) Any person who contravenes any provision of sections 61 to 66 inclusive, shall on conviction be liable to a fine not exceeding [five hundred rand] R8 000 or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding two years or to such imprisonment without the option of a fine or to both such fine and such imprisonment.”.

Amendment of section 73 of Act 66 of 1965, as amended by section 17 of Act 86 of 1983

6. Section 73 of the Administration of Estates Act, 1965, is hereby amended by the substitution for paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of the following paragraph:
25 “(b) in any case in which it would, in terms of the proviso to section 56 (1) of the Mental Health Act, 1973 (Act No. 18 of 1973), be competent for a judge in chambers to appoint a curator, or in any case in which the Master would be competent to appoint a curator in terms of section 56A of the said Act; or”.

Amendment of section 77 of Act 66 of 1965, as amended by section 18 of Act 86 of 1983

7. Section 77 of the Administration of Estates Act, 1965, is hereby amended by the substitution for subsection (1) of the following subsection:
30 “(1) Every person appointed or to be appointed tutor or curator as provided in section 72 (1) (d) or (2) or under section 73 or 74, shall, subject to the proviso to section 57 (3) of the Mental Health Act, 1973 (Act No. 18 of 1973), before letters of tutorship or curatorship are granted or signed and sealed, or any endorsement is made, as the case may be, and at any time thereafter when called upon by the Master to do so, find security or additional security to the satisfaction of the Master in an amount determined by the Master, for the proper performance of his functions.”.

Short title

- 40 8. This Act shall be called the Mentally Ill Persons' Legal Interests Amendment Act, 1990.

