

ESTATES AND PROTECTED INDIVIDUALS CODE (EXCERPT)
Act 386 of 1998

***** 700.3715.amended THIS AMENDED SECTION IS EFFECTIVE MAY 7, 2018 *****

700.3715.amended Transactions authorized for personal representatives.

Sec. 3715. (1) Except as restricted or otherwise provided by the will or by an order in a formal proceeding, and subject to subsection (2) and to the priorities stated in section 3902, a personal representative, acting reasonably for the benefit of interested persons, may properly do any of the following:

(a) Retain property owned by the decedent pending distribution or liquidation, including property in which the personal representative is personally interested or that is otherwise improper for trust investment.

(b) Receive property from a fiduciary or another source.

(c) Perform, compromise, or refuse performance of a contract of the decedent that continues as an estate obligation, as the personal representative determines under the circumstances. If the contract is for a conveyance of land and requires the giving of warranties, the personal representative shall include in the deed or other instrument of conveyance the required warranties. The warranties are binding on the estate as though the decedent made them but do not bind the personal representative except in a fiduciary capacity. In performing an enforceable contract by the decedent to convey or lease land, the personal representative, among other possible courses of action, may do any of the following:

(i) Execute and deliver a deed of conveyance for cash payment of the amount remaining due or for the purchaser's note for the amount remaining due secured by a mortgage on the land.

(ii) Deliver a deed in escrow with directions that the proceeds, when paid in accordance with the escrow agreement, be paid to the decedent's successors, as designated in the escrow agreement.

(d) If, in the judgment of the personal representative, the decedent would have wanted the pledge satisfied under the circumstances, satisfy a written charitable pledge of the decedent irrespective of whether the pledge constitutes a binding obligation of the decedent or is properly presented as a claim.

(e) If funds are not needed to meet a debt or expenses currently payable and are not immediately distributable, deposit or invest liquid assets of the estate, including funds received from the sale of other property, in accordance with the Michigan prudent investor rule.

(f) Acquire or dispose of property, including land in this or another state, for cash or on credit, at public or private sale; and manage, develop, improve, exchange, partition, change the character of, or abandon estate property.

(g) Make an ordinary or extraordinary repair or alteration in a building or other structure, demolish an improvement, or raze an existing or erect a new party wall or building.

(h) Subdivide, develop, or dedicate land to public use, make or obtain the vacation of a plat or adjust a boundary, adjust a difference in valuation on exchange or partition by giving or receiving consideration, or dedicate an easement to public use without consideration.

(i) Enter into a lease as lessor or lessee for any purpose, with or without an option to purchase or renew, for a term within or extending beyond the period of administration.

(j) Enter into a lease or arrangement for exploration and removal of minerals or another natural resource, or enter into a pooling or unitization agreement.

(k) Abandon property when, in the opinion of the personal representative, it is valueless, or is so encumbered or in such a condition as to be of no benefit to the estate.

(l) Vote stocks or another security in person or by general or limited proxy.

(m) Pay a call, assessment, or other amount chargeable or accruing against or on account of a security, unless barred by a provision relating to claims.

(n) Hold a security in the name of a nominee or in other form without disclosure of the estate's interest. However, the personal representative is liable for an act of the nominee in connection with the security so held.

(o) Insure the estate property against damage, loss, and liability and insure the personal representative against liability as to third persons.

(p) Borrow property with or without security to be repaid from the estate property or otherwise, and advance money for the estate's protection.

(q) Effect a fair and reasonable compromise with a debtor or obligor, or extend, renew, or in any manner modify the terms of an obligation owing to the estate. If the personal representative holds a mortgage, pledge, or other lien upon another person's property, the personal representative may, in lieu of foreclosure, accept a conveyance or transfer of encumbered property from the property's owner in satisfaction of the indebtedness secured by lien.

(r) Pay a tax, an assessment, the personal representative's compensation, or another expense incident to the estate's administration.

(s) Sell or exercise a stock subscription or conversion right.

(t) Consent, directly or through a committee or other agent, to the reorganization, consolidation, merger, dissolution, or liquidation of a corporation or other business enterprise.

(u) Allocate items of income or expense to either estate income or principal, as permitted or provided by law.

(v) Employ, and pay reasonable compensation for reasonably necessary services performed by, a person, including, but not limited to, an auditor, investment advisor, or agent, even if the person is associated with the personal representative, to advise or assist the personal representative in the performance of administrative duties; act on the person's recommendations without independent investigation; and, instead of acting personally, employ 1 or more agents to perform an act of administration, whether or not discretionary.

(w) Employ an attorney to perform necessary legal services or to advise or assist the personal representative in the performance of the personal representative's administrative duties, even if the attorney is associated with the personal representative, and act without independent investigation upon the attorney's recommendation. An attorney employed under this subdivision shall receive reasonable compensation for his or her employment.

(x) Prosecute or defend a claim or proceeding in any jurisdiction for the protection of the estate and of the personal representative in the performance of the personal representative's duties.

(y) Sell, mortgage, or lease estate property or an interest in estate property for cash, credit, or part cash and part credit, and with or without security for unpaid balances.

(z) Continue a business or venture in which the decedent was engaged at the time of death as a sole proprietor or a general partner, including continuation as a general partner by a personal representative that is a corporation, in any of the following manners:

(i) In the same business form for a period of not more than 4 months after the date of appointment of a general personal representative if continuation is a reasonable means of preserving the value of the business, including goodwill.

(ii) In the same business form for an additional period of time if approved by court order in a formal proceeding to which the persons interested in the estate are parties.

(iii) Throughout the period of administration if the personal representative incorporates the business or converts the business to a limited liability company and if none of the probable distributees of the business who are competent adults object to its incorporation or conversion and its retention in the estate.

(aa) Change the form of a business or venture in which the decedent was engaged at the time of death through incorporation or formation as a limited liability company or other entity offering protection against or limiting exposure to liabilities.

(bb) Provide for the personal representative's exoneration from personal liability in a contract entered into on the estate's behalf.

(cc) Respond to an environmental concern or hazard affecting estate property as provided in section 3722.

(dd) Satisfy and settle claims and distribute the estate as provided in this act.

(ee) Make, revise, or revoke an available allocation, consent, or election in connection with a tax matter as appropriate in order to carry out the decedent's estate planning objectives and to reduce the overall burden of taxation, both in the present and in the future. This authority includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:

(i) Electing to take expenses as estate tax or income tax deductions.

(ii) Electing to allocate the exemption from the tax on generation skipping transfers among transfers subject to estate or gift tax.

(iii) Electing to have all or a portion of a transfer for a spouse's benefit qualify for the marital deduction.

(iv) Electing the date of death or an alternate valuation date for federal estate tax purposes.

(v) Excluding or including property from the gross estate for federal estate tax purposes.

(vi) Valuing property for federal estate tax purposes.

(vii) Joining with the surviving spouse or the surviving spouse's personal representative in the execution and filing of a joint income tax return and consenting to a gift tax return filed by the surviving spouse or the surviving spouse's personal representative.

(ff) Divide portions of the estate, including portions to be allocated into trust, into 2 or more separate portions or trusts with substantially identical terms and conditions, and allocate property between them, in order to simplify administration for generation skipping transfer tax purposes, to segregate property for management purposes, or to meet another estate or trust objective.

(2) If the personal representative is the state or county public administrator, all of the following apply:

(a) The personal representative shall not sell the decedent's real property without approval of the court. The court shall only approve the sale if, after a hearing with notice to interested persons as specified in the Michigan court rules, the court considers evidence of the value of the property and considers any information submitted by the county treasurer under section 3705(7) and otherwise determines that the sale is in the estate's best interest. In determining whether to approve the sale of real property under this subdivision, the court shall consider any information submitted by the county treasurer under section 3705(7).

(b) If the personal representative is the county public administrator, and if the decedent's real property is occupied by an heir of the decedent, the county public administrator shall provide the state public administrator with all pleadings filed in the case.

(c) Unless waived by the court, the personal representative shall advance any of the personal representative's court filing fees associated with the administration of the estate.

(d) If the decedent's estate includes real property subject to tax or mortgage foreclosure, for real estate fees or fees related to identifying real property subject to foreclosure, or both, payable to persons employed by the personal representative, including an attorney, real estate agent, or asset recovery agent, both of the following apply:

(i) Except as otherwise provided by the court, if the net proceeds from the sale of the real property payable to the estate exceed \$30,000.00, the total fees described in this subsection must not exceed 10% of the net proceeds from the sale of the real property payable to the estate.

(ii) If the net proceeds from the sale of real property payable to the estate are less than \$30,000.00, the court shall determine the reasonableness of the fees described in this subsection.

(3) As used in subsection (2), "net proceeds from the sale of the real property" means the sale price of the real property less the amount paid to satisfy the tax or mortgage, or both.

History: 1998, Act 386, Eff. Apr. 1, 2000;—Am. 2004, Act 314, Eff. Sept. 1, 2004;—Am. 2005, Act 204, Imd. Eff. Nov. 10, 2005;—Am. 2009, Act 46, Eff. Apr. 1, 2010;—Am. 2018, Act 14, Eff. May 7, 2018.

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