

Introduced by

(At the request of the Commission on Uniform State Laws)

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact sections 30.1-04-14, 30.1-04-15, 30.1-04-16, 30.1-04-17,  
2 30.1-04-18, 30.1-04-19, and 30.1-04-20, and sections 30.1-10-05 and 30.1-10-06 of the North  
3 Dakota Century Code, relating to the uniform probate code; and to amend amend and reenact  
4 sections 30.1-01-06, 30.1-04-02, 30.1-04-03, 30.1-04-04, 30.1-04-08, 30.1-04-09, 30.1-05-01,  
5 30.1-05-02, 30.1-07-01, 30.1-07-03, 30.1-08-02, 30.1-08-04, 30.1-09.1-05, 30.1-09.1-06,  
6 30.1-09.1-07, 30.1-15-06, and 30.1-35-01 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the  
7 uniform probate code.

8 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

9 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 30.1-01-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
10 amended and reenacted as follows:

11 **30.1-01-06. (1-201) General definitions.** Subject to additional definitions contained in  
12 the subsequent chapters which are applicable to specific chapters, and unless the context  
13 otherwise requires, in this title:

- 14 1. "Agent" includes an attorney-in-fact under a durable or nondurable power of  
15 attorney, an individual authorized to make decisions concerning another's health  
16 care, and an individual authorized to make decisions for another under a natural  
17 death act.
- 18 2. "Application" means a written request to the court for an order of informal probate  
19 or appointment under chapter 30.1-14.
- 20 3. "Augmented estate" means the estate described in section 30.1-05-02.
- 21 4. "Beneficiary", as it relates to a trust beneficiary, includes a person who has any  
22 present or future interest, vested or contingent, and also includes the owner of an  
23 interest by assignment or other transfer; as it relates to a charitable trust, includes  
24 any person entitled to enforce the trust; as it relates to a beneficiary of a

- 1 beneficiary designation, refers to a beneficiary of an account with a payable on  
2 death designation, of a security registered in beneficiary form transferable on  
3 death, or other nonprobate transfer at death; and, as it relates to a "beneficiary  
4 designated in a governing instrument", includes a grantee of a deed, a devisee, a  
5 trust beneficiary, a beneficiary of a beneficiary designation, a donee, or a person in  
6 whose favor a power of attorney or a power held in any individual, fiduciary, or  
7 representative capacity is exercised.
- 8 5. "Beneficiary designation" refers to a governing instrument naming a beneficiary of  
9 an account with payable on death designation, of a security registered in  
10 beneficiary form transferable on death, or other nonprobate transfer at death.
- 11 6. "Child" includes an individual entitled to take as a child under this title by intestate  
12 succession from the parent whose relationship is involved and excludes a person  
13 who is only a stepchild, a foster child, a grandchild, or any more remote  
14 descendant.
- 15 7. "Claims", in respect to estates of decedents and protected persons, includes  
16 liabilities of the decedent or protected person whether arising in contract, in tort, or  
17 otherwise, and liabilities of the estate which arise at or after the death of the  
18 decedent or after the appointment of a conservator, including funeral expenses and  
19 expenses of administration. The term does not include estate or inheritance taxes,  
20 or demands or disputes regarding title of a decedent or protected person to specific  
21 assets alleged to be included in the estate.
- 22 8. "Conservator" means a person who is appointed by a court to manage the estate  
23 of a protected person, and includes limited conservators as defined in this section.
- 24 9. "Court" means the court having jurisdiction in matters relating to the affairs of  
25 decedents.
- 26 10. "Descendant" of an individual means all descendants of all generations, with the  
27 relationship of parent and child at each generation being determined by the  
28 definition of child and parent contained in this title.
- 29 11. "Devise", when used as a noun, means a testamentary disposition of real or  
30 personal property, and when used as a verb, means to dispose of real or personal  
31 property by will.

- 1           12. "Devisee" means a person designated in a will to receive a devise. In the case of a  
2           devise to an existing trust or trustee, or to a trustee or trust described by will, the  
3           trust or trustee is the devisee and the beneficiaries are not devisees.
- 4           13. "Disability" means cause for a protective order as described in section 30.1-29-01.
- 5           14. "Distributee" means any person who has received property of a decedent from the  
6           decedent's personal representative other than as a creditor or purchaser. A  
7           testamentary trustee is a distributee only to the extent of distributed assets or  
8           increment thereto remaining in the trustee's hands. A beneficiary of a  
9           testamentary trust to whom the trustee has distributed property received from a  
10          personal representative is a distributee of the personal representative. For the  
11          purposes of this provision, "testamentary trustee" includes a trustee to whom  
12          assets are transferred by will to the extent of the devised assets.
- 13          15. "Estate" includes the property of the decedent, trust, or other person whose affairs  
14          are subject to this title as originally constituted and as it exists from time to time  
15          during administration.
- 16          16. "Exempt property" means that property of a decedent's estate which is described in  
17          section 30.1-07-01.
- 18          17. "Fiduciary" includes a personal representative, guardian, conservator, and trustee.
- 19          18. "Foreign personal representative" means a personal representative appointed by  
20          another jurisdiction.
- 21          19. "Formal proceedings" means proceedings conducted before a judge with notice to  
22          interested persons.
- 23          20. "Governing instrument" means a deed, will, trust, insurance or annuity policy,  
24          account with payable on death designation, security registered in beneficiary form  
25          transferable on death, pension, profit-sharing, retirement, or similar benefit plan,  
26          instrument creating or exercising a power of appointment or a power of attorney, or  
27          a dispositive, appointive, or nominative instrument of any similar type.
- 28          21. "Guardian" means a person who or nonprofit corporation that has qualified as a  
29          guardian of a minor or incapacitated person pursuant to testamentary or court  
30          appointment, and includes limited guardians as defined in this section, but  
31          excludes one who is merely a guardian ad litem.

- 1           22. "Heirs", except as controlled by section 30.1-09.1-11, means persons, including the  
2                   surviving spouse and the state, who are entitled under the statutes of intestate  
3                   succession to the property of a decedent.
- 4           23. "Incapacitated person" means an individual described in section 30.1-26-01.
- 5           24. "Informal proceedings" means those conducted by the court for probate of a will or  
6                   appointment of a personal representative without notice to interested persons.
- 7           25. "Interested person" includes heirs, devisees, children, spouses, creditors,  
8                   beneficiaries, and any others having a property right in or claim against a trust  
9                   estate or the estate of a decedent, ward, or protected person. The term also  
10                  includes persons having priority for appointment as personal representative, and  
11                  other fiduciaries representing interested persons. The meaning as it relates to  
12                  particular persons may vary from time to time and must be determined according to  
13                  the particular purposes of, and matter involved in, any proceeding.
- 14          26. "Issue" of a person means descendant as defined in subsection 10.
- 15          27. "Joint tenants with the right of survivorship" and "community property with the right  
16                  of survivorship" includes coowners of property held under circumstances that  
17                  entitle one or more to the whole of the property on the death of the other or others,  
18                  but excludes forms of coownership registration in which the underlying ownership  
19                  of each party is in proportion to that party's contribution.
- 20          28. "Lease" includes an oil, gas, or other mineral lease.
- 21          29. "Letters" includes letters testamentary, letters of guardianship, letters of  
22                  administration, and letters of conservatorship.
- 23          30. "Limited conservator" means a person or nonprofit corporation, appointed by the  
24                  court, to manage only those financial resources specifically enumerated by the  
25                  court for the person with limited capacity, and includes limited conservators as  
26                  described by section 30.1-29-20.
- 27          31. "Limited guardian" means a person or nonprofit corporation, appointed by the  
28                  court, to supervise certain specified aspects of the care of a person with limited  
29                  capacity, and includes limited guardians as described by section 30.1-28-04.
- 30          32. "Minor" means a person who is under eighteen years of age.

- 1           33. "Mortgage" means any conveyance, agreement, or arrangement in which property  
2                   is encumbered or used as security.
- 3           34. "Nonresident decedent" means a decedent who was domiciled in another  
4                   jurisdiction at the time of death.
- 5           35. "Organization" means a corporation, limited liability company, government or  
6                   governmental subdivision or agency, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, joint  
7                   venture, association, or any other legal or commercial entity.
- 8           36. "Parent" includes any person entitled to take, or who would be entitled to take if the  
9                   child died without a will, as a parent under this title, by intestate succession from  
10                  the child whose relationship is in question and excludes any person who is only a  
11                  stepparent, foster parent, or grandparent.
- 12          37. "Payer" means a trustee, insurer, business entity, employer, government,  
13                  governmental agency or subdivision, or any other person authorized or obligated  
14                  by law or a governing instrument to make payments.
- 15          38. "Person" means an individual, a corporation, a limited liability company, an  
16                  organization, or other legal entity.
- 17          39. "Person with limited capacity" is as defined in section 30.1-26-01.
- 18          40. "Personal representative" includes executor, administrator, successor personal  
19                  representative, special administrator, and persons who perform substantially the  
20                  same function under the law governing their status. "General personal  
21                  representative" excludes special administrator.
- 22          41. "Petition" means a written request to the court for an order after notice.
- 23          42. "Proceeding" includes action at law and suit in equity.
- 24          43. "Property" includes both real and personal property or any interest therein and  
25                  means anything that may be the subject of ownership.
- 26          44. "Protected person" is as defined in section 30.1-26-01.
- 27          45. "Protective proceeding" means a proceeding described in section 30.1-26-01.
- 28          46. "Record" means a trustee, insurer, business entity, employer, government,  
29                  governmental agency or subdivision, or any other person authorized or obligated  
30                  by law or a governing instrument to make payment.

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- 1     ~~46.~~ 47. "Security" includes any note, stock, treasury stock, bond, debenture, membership  
2                   interest in a limited liability company, evidence of indebtedness, certificate of  
3                   interest or participation in an oil, gas, or mining title or lease or in payments out of  
4                   production under such a title or lease, collateral trust certificate, transferable share,  
5                   voting trust certificate or, in general, any interest or instrument commonly known as  
6                   a security, or any certificate of interest or participation, any temporary or interim  
7                   certificate, receipt, or certificate of deposit for, or any warrant or right to subscribe  
8                   to or purchase, any of the foregoing.
- 9     ~~47.~~ 48. "Settlement", in reference to a decedent's estate, includes the full process of  
10                   administration, distribution, and closing.
- 11            49. "Sign" means information that is inscribed on a tangible medium or that is stored in  
12                   an electronic or other medium and is retrievable in perceivable form.
- 13     ~~48.~~ 50. "Special administrator" means a personal representative as described by sections  
14                   30.1-17-14 through 30.1-17-18.
- 15     ~~49.~~ 51. "State" means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, the  
16                   Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or any territory or insular possession subject to the  
17                   jurisdiction of the United States.
- 18     ~~50.~~ 52. "Successor personal representative" means a personal representative, other than  
19                   a special administrator, who is appointed to succeed a previously appointed  
20                   personal representative.
- 21     ~~51.~~ 53. "Successors" means persons, other than creditors, who are entitled to property of a  
22                   decedent under the decedent's will or this title.
- 23     ~~52.~~ 54. "Supervised administration" refers to the proceedings described in chapter 30.1-16.
- 24     ~~53.~~ 55. "Survive" means that an individual has neither predeceased an event, including the  
25                   death of another individual, nor predeceased an event under sections 30.1-04-04  
26                   and 30.1-09.1-02. The term includes its derivatives, such as "survives", "survived",  
27                   "survivor", and "surviving".
- 28     ~~54.~~ 56. "Testacy proceeding" means a proceeding to establish a will or determine  
29                   intestacy.
- 30     ~~55.~~ 57. "Trust" includes an express trust, private or charitable, with additions thereto,  
31                   wherever and however created. The term also includes a trust created or

1 determined by judgment or decree under which the trust is to be administered in  
2 the manner of an express trust. The term excludes other constructive trusts and  
3 excludes resulting trusts, conservatorships, personal representatives, trust  
4 accounts as defined in custodial arrangements pursuant to chapter 11-22, chapter  
5 12-48, sections 25-01.1-19 to 25-01.1-21, chapter 32-10, section 32-16-37, chapter  
6 32-26, former chapter 47-24, chapter 47-24.1, business trusts providing for  
7 certificates to be issued to beneficiaries, common trust funds, voting trusts, security  
8 arrangements, liquidation trusts, and trusts for the primary purpose of paying  
9 debts, dividends, interest, salaries, wages, profits, pensions, or employee benefits  
10 of any kind, and any arrangement under which a person is nominee or escrowee  
11 for another.

12 ~~56.~~ 58. "Trustee" includes an original, additional, or successor trustee, whether or not  
13 appointed or confirmed by court.

14 ~~57.~~ 59. "Ward" means an individual described in section 30.1-26-01.

15 ~~58.~~ 60. "Will" includes codicil and any testamentary instrument that merely appoints an  
16 executor, revokes or revises another will, nominates a guardian, or expressly  
17 excludes or limits the right of an individual or class to succeed to property of the  
18 decedent passing by intestate succession.

19 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 30.1-04-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
20 amended and reenacted as follows:

21 **30.1-04-02. (2-102) Share of spouse.** The intestate share of a decedent's surviving  
22 spouse is:

- 23 1. The entire intestate estate if:
  - 24 a. No descendant or parent of the decedent survives the decedent; or
  - 25 b. All of the decedent's surviving descendants are also descendants of the  
26 surviving spouse and there is no other descendant of the surviving spouse  
27 who survives the decedent.
- 28 2. The first ~~two~~ three hundred thousand dollars, plus three-fourths of any balance of  
29 the intestate estate, if no descendant of the decedent survives the decedent, but a  
30 parent of the decedent survives the decedent.

1           3.    The first ~~one~~ two hundred ~~thirty~~ twenty-five thousand dollars, plus one-half of any  
2                    balance of the intestate, if all of the decedent's surviving descendants are also  
3                    descendants of the surviving spouse and the surviving spouse has one or more  
4                    surviving descendants who are not descendants of the decedent.

5           4.    The first one hundred fifty thousand dollars, plus one-half of any balance of the  
6                    intestate estate, if one or more of the decedent's surviving descendants are not  
7                    descendants of the surviving spouse.

8           **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 30.1-04-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
9    amended and reenacted as follows:

10           **30.1-04-03. (2-103) Share of heirs other than surviving spouse.** Any part of the  
11    intestate estate not passing to ~~the~~ a decedent's surviving spouse under section 30.1-04-02, or  
12    the entire intestate estate if there is no surviving spouse, passes in the following order to the  
13    individuals ~~designated below~~ who survive the decedent:

- 14           1.    To the decedent's descendants by representation.
- 15           2.    If there is no surviving descendant, to the decedent's parents equally if both  
16                    survive, or to the surviving parent.
- 17           3.    If there is no surviving descendant or parent, to the descendants of the decedent's  
18                    parents or either of them by representation.
- 19           4.    If there is no surviving descendant, parent, or descendant of a parent, but the  
20                    decedent is survived on both the paternal and maternal sides by one or more  
21                    grandparents or descendants of grandparents, ~~half of the estate passes:~~
  - 22                    a.    Half to the decedent's paternal grandparents equally if both survive, or to the  
23                            surviving paternal grandparent, or to the descendants of the decedent's  
24                            paternal grandparents or either of them if both are deceased, the  
25                            descendant's taking by representation; and ~~the other half passes;~~
  - 26                    b.    Half to the decedent's maternal ~~relatives in the same manner;~~ but if there is  
27                            ~~no surviving grandparent or descendant of a grandparent on either the~~  
28                            ~~paternal or the maternal side, the entire estate passes~~ grandparents equally if  
29                            both survive, or to the surviving maternal grandparent, or to the descendants  
30                            of the decedent's maternal grandparents or either of them if both are  
31                            deceased, the descendants taking by representation to the decedent's

1 relatives on the ~~other~~ side with one or more surviving members in the ~~same~~  
2 manner ~~as the half~~ as described in subsection 4.

3 5. If there is no surviving descendant, parent, or descendant of a parent, but the  
4 decedent is survived by one or more grandparents or descendants of grandparents  
5 on the paternal but not the maternal side, or on the maternal but not the paternal  
6 side.

7 6. If there is no surviving spouse, descendant, parent, descendant of a parent,  
8 grandparent, or descendant of a grandparent, but the intestate decedent has one  
9 deceased spouse who has one or more descendants who survive the decedent, to  
10 those descendants by representation; or more than one deceased spouse who has  
11 one or more descendants who survive the decedent, the estate is divided into as  
12 many equal shares as there are deceased spouses, each share passing to those  
13 descendants by representation.

14 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 30.1-04-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
15 amended and reenacted as follows:

16 **30.1-04-04. (2-104) Requirement that heir survive decedent for one hundred**  
17 **twenty hours - Individual in gestation.**

18 1. For purposes of intestate succession, homestead allowance, and exempt property,  
19 and except as otherwise provided in subsection 2.

20 a. An individual who ~~was born before a decedent's death but who~~ fails to survive  
21 the decedent by one hundred twenty hours is deemed to have predeceased  
22 the decedent ~~for purposes of homestead allowance, exempt property, and~~  
23 ~~intestate succession, and the decedent's heirs are determined accordingly.~~ If  
24 it is not established by clear and convincing evidence that an individual who  
25 ~~would otherwise be an heir~~ was born before the decedent's death survived the  
26 decedent by one hundred twenty hours, it is deemed that the individual failed  
27 to survive for the required period. ~~This section is not to be applied if its~~  
28 ~~application would result in a taking of intestate estate by the state under~~  
29 ~~section 30.1-04-05.~~

30 b. An individual who was in gestation at a decedent's death is deemed to be  
31 living at the decedent's death if the individual lives one hundred twenty hours

1           after birth. If it is not established by clear and convincing evidence that an  
2           individual who was in gestation at the decedent's death lived one hundred  
3           twenty hours after birth, it is deemed that the individual failed to survive for the  
4           required period. This section does not apply if it would result in a taking of the  
5           intestate estate by the state under section 2-105.

6           **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 30.1-04-08 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
7 amended and reenacted as follows:

8           **30.1-04-08. (2-108) ~~Afterborn heirs. Reserved.~~** ~~An individual in gestation at a~~  
9 ~~particular time is treated as living at that time if the individual lives one hundred twenty hours or~~  
10 ~~more after birth.~~

11           **SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.** Section 30.1-04-09 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
12 amended and reenacted as follows:

13           **30.1-04-09. (2-114) ~~Meaning of child and related terms~~ Parent barred from**  
14 **inheriting in certain circumstances.** ~~If, for purposes of intestate succession, a relationship of~~  
15 ~~parent and child must be established to determine succession by, through, or from a person:~~

- 16           1. ~~An adopted individual is the child of an adopting parent or parents and not of the~~  
17 ~~natural parents, but adoption of a child by the spouse of either natural parent has~~  
18 ~~no effect on the relationship between the child and that natural parent or the right~~  
19 ~~of the child or a descendant of the child to inherit from or through the other natural~~  
20 ~~parent.~~
- 21           2. ~~Inheritance from and through a child by either natural parent or kindred is~~  
22 ~~precluded unless that natural parent has openly treated the child as the parent's,~~  
23 ~~and has not refused to support the child.~~
- 24           3. ~~In cases not covered by subsections 1 and 2, an individual is the child of its natural~~  
25 ~~parents regardless of the marital status of its parents. The parent and child~~  
26 ~~relationship may be established under chapter 14-17. A parent is barred from~~  
27 ~~inheriting from or through a child of the parent if the parent's parental rights~~  
28 ~~were terminated and the parent-child relationship was not judicially reestablished;~~  
29 ~~or the child died before reaching eighteen years of age and there is clear and~~  
30 ~~convincing evidence that immediately before the child's death the parental rights of~~  
31 ~~the child's parent could have been terminated under other law of this state on the~~

1           basis of nonsupport, abandonment, abuse or neglect, or other actions or inactions  
2           of the parent toward the child.

3           2. For purposes of intestate succession from or through the deceased child, a parent  
4           who is barred from inheriting under this section is treated as if the parent  
5           predeceased the child.

6           **SECTION 7.** Section 30.1-04-14 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and  
7 enacted as follows:

8           **30.1-04-14. (2-115) Definitions.** In sections 30.1-04-14 through 30.1-04-20:

9           1. "Adoptee" means an individual who is adopted.

10          2. "Assisted reproduction" means a method of causing pregnancy other than sexual  
11          intercourse.

12          3. "Divorce" means any divorce or annulment, or any dissolution or declaration of  
13          invalidity of a marriage.

14          4. "Functioned as a parent of the child" means behaving toward the child in a manner  
15          consistent with being the child's parent and performing functions that are  
16          customarily performed by a parent, such as fulfilling parental responsibilities toward  
17          the child, recognizing or holding out the child as the individual's child, materially  
18          participating in the child's upbringing, and residing with the child in the same  
19          household as regular members of that household.

20          5. "Genetic father" means the man whose sperm fertilized the egg of the child's  
21          genetic mother. If the father-child relationship is established under the  
22          presumption of paternity section subdivision a, b, or c of subsection 2 of section  
23          14-20-07, the term means only the man for whom the relationship is established.

24          6. "Genetic mother" means the woman whose egg was fertilized by the sperm of the  
25          child's genetic father.

26          7. "Genetic parent" means a child's genetic father or genetic mother.

27          8. "Incapacity" means the inability of an individual to function as a parent of a child  
28          because of the individual's physical or mental condition.

29          9. "Relative" means a grandparent or a descendant of a grandparent.

30          **SECTION 8.** Section 30.1-04-15 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and  
31 enacted as follows:

1           **30.1-04-15. Parent-child relationship - Effect.** Except as otherwise provided in  
2 subsections 2 through 4 of section 30.1-04-18, if a parent-child relationship exists or is  
3 established under this [subpart], the parent is a parent of the child and the child is a child of the  
4 parent for purposes of intestate succession.

5           **SECTION 9.** Section 30.1-04-16 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and  
6 enacted as follows:

7           **30.1-04-16. Parent-child relationship - No distinction based on marital status.**  
8 Except as otherwise provided in sections 30.1-04-09, 30.1-04-18, 30.1-04-19, or 3-1-04-20, a  
9 parent-child relationship exists between a child and the child's genetic parents, regardless of  
10 their marital status.

11           **SECTION 10.** Section 30.1-04-17 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and  
12 enacted as follows:

13           **30.1-04-17. Parent-child relationship - Adoptee and adoptee's adoptive parent or**  
14 **parents.**

15           1. A parent-child relationship exists between an adoptee and the adoptee's adoptive  
16 parent or parents.

17           2. For purposes of subsection 1:

18           a. An individual who is in the process of being adopted by a married couple  
19 when one of the spouses dies is treated as adopted by the deceased spouse  
20 if the adoption is subsequently granted to the decedent's surviving spouse.

21           b. A child of a genetic parent who is in the process of being adopted by a genetic  
22 parent's spouse when the spouse dies is treated as adopted by the deceased  
23 spouse if the genetic parent survives the deceased spouse by one hundred  
24 twenty hours.

25           3. If, after a parent-child relationship is established between a child of assisted  
26 reproduction and a parent under section 30.1-04-19 or between a gestational child  
27 and a parent under section 30.1-04-20, the child is in the process of being adopted  
28 by the parent's spouse when that spouse dies, the child is treated as adopted by  
29 the deceased spouse for purposes of subdivision b of subsection 2.

30           **SECTION 11.** Section 30.1-04-18 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and  
31 enacted as follows:

1           **Parent-child relationship - adoptee and adoptee's.**

- 2           1. Except as otherwise provided in subsections b through d, a parent-child  
3           relationship does not exist between an adoptee and the adoptee's genetic parents.  
4           2. A parent-child relationship exists between an individual who is adopted by the  
5           spouse of either genetic parent and:  
6           a. The genetic parent whose spouse adopted the individual; and  
7           b. The other genetic parent, but only for purposes of the right of the adoptee or a  
8           descendant of the adoptee to inherit from or through the other genetic parent.  
9           3. A parent-child relationship exists between both genetic parents and an individual  
10           who is adopted by a relative of a genetic parent, or by the spouse or surviving  
11           spouse of a relative of a genetic parent, but only for purposes of the right of the  
12           adoptee or a descendant of the adoptee to inherit from or through either genetic  
13           parent.  
14           4. A parent-child relationship exists between both genetic parents and an individual  
15           who is adopted after the death of both genetic parents, but only for purposes of the  
16           right of the adoptee or a descendant of the adoptee to inherit through either genetic  
17           parent.  
18           5. If, after a parent-child relationship is established between a child of assisted  
19           reproduction and a parent or parents under section 30.1-04-19 or between a  
20           gestational child and a parent or parents under section 30.1-04-20, the child is  
21           adopted by another or others, the child's parent or parents under section  
22           30.1-04-19 or 30.1-04-20 are deemed the child's genetic parent or parents for  
23           purposes of this section.

24           **SECTION 12.** Section 30.1-04-19 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and  
25 enacted as follows:

26           **Parent-child relationship - Child conceived by assisted reproduction other than a**  
27 **child born to a gestational carrier.**

- 28           1. In this section:  
29           a. "Birth mother" means a woman, other than a gestational carrier under section  
30           30.1-04-20, who gives birth to a child of assisted reproduction. The term is  
31           not limited to a woman who is the child's genetic mother.

- 1            b. "Child of assisted reproduction" means a child conceived by means of  
2            assisted reproduction by a woman other than a gestational carrier under  
3            section 30.1-04-20.
- 4            c. "Third-party donor" means an individual who produces eggs or sperm used for  
5            assisted reproduction, whether or not for consideration. The term does not  
6            include a husband who provides sperm, or a wife who provides eggs, that are  
7            used for assisted reproduction by the wife; the birth mother of a child of  
8            assisted reproduction; or an individual who is determined under subsection 5  
9            or 6 to have a parent-child relationship with a child of assisted reproduction.
- 10          2. A parent-child does not exist between a child of assessed reproduction and a  
11          third-party donor.
- 12          3. A parent-child relationship exists between a child of assisted reproduction and the  
13          child's birth mother.
- 14          4. Except as otherwise provided in subsections 9 and 10, a parent-child relationship  
15          exists between a child of assisted reproduction and the husband of the child's birth  
16          mother if the husband provided the sperm that the birth mother used during his  
17          lifetime for assisted reproduction, and the husband is the genetic father or the  
18          child.
- 19          5. A birth certificate identifying an individual other than the birth mother as the other  
20          parent of a child of assisted reproduction presumptively establishes a parent-child  
21          relationship between the child and that individual.
- 22          6. Except as otherwise provided in subsections 7, 9, and 10, and unless a  
23          parent-child relationship is established under subsection 4 or 5, a parent-child  
24          relationship exists between a child of assisted reproduction and an individual other  
25          than the birth mother who consented to assisted reproduction by the birth mother  
26          with intent to be treated as the other parent of the child. Consent to assisted  
27          reproduction by the birth mother with intent to be treated as the other parent of the  
28          child is established if the individual.
- 29          a. Before or after the child's birth, signed a record that, considering all the facts  
30          and circumstances, evidences the individual's consent; or

- 1            b. In the absence of a signed record under subdivision a: functioned as a parent  
2            of the child no later than two years after the child's birth; intended to function  
3            as a parent of the child no later than two years after the child's birth but was  
4            prevented from carrying out that intent by death, incapacity, or other  
5            circumstances; or intended to be treated as a parent of a posthumously  
6            conceived child if that intent is established by clear and convincing evidence.
- 7            7. For purposes of subdivision a of subsection 1, neither an individual who signed a  
8            record more than two years after the birth of the child, nor a relative of that  
9            individual who is not also a relative of the birth mother, inherits from or through the  
10           child unless the individual functioned as a parent of the child before the child  
11           reached the age of majority.
- 12           8. For purposes of subdivision b of subsection 6: If the birth mother is married and no  
13           divorce proceedings are pending or if the birth mother is a surviving spouse and at  
14           her deceased spouse's death no divorce proceedings were then pending, in the  
15           absence of clear and convincing evidence to the contrary, her spouse or deceases  
16           spouse is deemed to have satisfied subdivision b of subsection 6.
- 17           9. If a married couple are divorced before placement of eggs, sperm, or embryos, a  
18           child resulting from the assisted reproduction is not a child of the birth mother's  
19           former spouse, unless the former spouse consented in a record that if assisted  
20           reproduction were to occur after divorce, the child would be treated as the former  
21           spouse's child.
- 22           10. If, in a record, an individual withdraws consent to assisted reproduction before  
23           placement of eggs, sperm, or embryos, a child resulting from the assisted  
24           reproduction is not a child of that individual, unless the individual subsequently  
25           satisfies the requirements of subsection 6.
- 26           11. If, under this section, an individual is a parent of a child of assisted reproduction  
27           who is conceived after the individual's death, the child is treated as in gestation at  
28           the individual's death for purposes of subdivision b of subsection 1 of section  
29           30.1-04-04 if the child is in utero not later than thirty-six months after the  
30           individual's death; or born not later than forty-five months after the individual's  
31           death.

1           **SECTION 13.** Section 30.1-04-20 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and  
2 enacted as follows:

3           **Parent-child relationship - Child born to a gestational carrier.**

4           1. In this section:

5           a. "Gestational agreement" means an enforceable or unenforceable agreement  
6 for assisted reproduction in which a woman agrees to carry a child to birth for  
7 an intended parent, intended parents, or an individual described in  
8 subsection 5.

9           b. "Gestational child" means a child born to a gestational carrier under  
10 gestational agreement.

11           c. "Gestational carrier" means a woman who is not an intended parent and who  
12 gives birth to a child under a gestational agreement. The term is not limited to  
13 a woman who is the child's genetic mother.

14           d. "Intended parent" means an individual who entered into a gestational  
15 agreement providing that the individual will be the parent of a child born to a  
16 gestational carrier by means of assisted reproduction. The term is not limited  
17 to an individual who has a genetic relationship with the child.

18           2. A parent-child relationship is conclusively established by a court order designating  
19 the parent or parents or a gestational child.

20           3. A parent-child relationship between a gestational child and the child's gestational  
21 carrier does not exist unless the gestational carrier is:

22           a. Designated as a parent of the child in a court order described in subsection 2;  
23 or

24           b. The child's genetic mother and a parent-child relationship does not exist with  
25 an individual other than the gestational carrier under this section.

26           4. In the absence of a court order subdivision b, a parent-child relationship exists  
27 between a gestational child and an intended parent who:

28           a. Functioned as a parent of the child no later than two years after the child's  
29 birth; or

30           b. Died while the gestational carrier was pregnant if:

- 1                   (1). There were two intended parents and the other intended parent  
2                   survived the birth of the child and functioned as a parent of the child no  
3                   later than two years after the child's birth;
- 4                   (2). There were two intended parents, the other intended parent also died  
5                   while the gestational carrier was pregnant, and a relative of either  
6                   deceased intended parent or the spouse or surviving spouse of a  
7                   relative of either deceased intended parent functioned as a parent of  
8                   the child no later than tow years after the child's birth; or
- 9                   (3). There was no other intended parent and a relative of or the spouse or  
10                   surviving spouse of a relative of the deceased intended parent  
11                   functioned as a parent of the child no later than two years after the  
12                   child's birth.
- 13                5. In the absence of a court order under subdivision b, a parent-child relationship  
14                exists between a gestational child and an individual whose sperm or eggs were  
15                used after the individual's death or incapacity to conceive a child under a  
16                gestational agreement entered into after the individual's death or incapacity if the  
17                individual intended to be treated as the parent of the child. The individual's intent  
18                can be shown by:
- 19                a. A record, signed by the individual that, considering all the facts and  
20                circumstances, evidences the individual's intent; or
- 21                b. Other facts and circumstances establishing the individual's intent by clear and  
22                convincing evidence.
- 23                6. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 7, and unless there is clear and  
24                convincing evidence of a contrary intent, an individual is deemed to have intended  
25                to be treated as the parent of a gestational child for purposes of subdivision b of  
26                subsection 5 if:
- 27                a. The individual, before death or incapacity, deposited the sperm or eggs that  
28                were used to conceive the child;
- 29                b. When the individual deposited the sperm or eggs, the individual was married  
30                and no divorce proceedings were pending; and

1           c. The individual's spouse or surviving spouse functioned as a parent of the child  
2                 not later than two years after the child's birth.

3           7. The presumption under subdivision f does not apply if there is a court order under  
4                 subsection 2; or a signed record that satisfied subdivision a of subsection 5.

5           8. If, under this section, an individual is a parent of a gestational child who is  
6                 conceived after the individual's death, the child is treated as in gestation as the  
7                 individual's death for purposes of subdivision b of subsection 1 of section  
8                 30.1-04-04 if the child is in utero not later than thirty-six months after the  
9                 individual's death; or born not later than forty-five months after the individual's  
10                death.

11          9. This section does not affect other law of this state regarding the enforceability or  
12                validity of a gestational agreement.

13          **SECTION 14.** Section 30.1-04-21 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and  
14 enacted as follows:

15          **30.1-04-21. Equitable adoption.** Sections 30.1-04-14 through 30.1-04-20 do not  
16 preclude, limit, or affect application of the doctrine of equitable adoption.

17          **SECTION 15. AMENDMENT.** Section 30.1-05-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
18 amended and reenacted as follows:

19          **30.1-05-01. (2-201) Elective share.**

20          1. The surviving spouse of a decedent who dies domiciled in this state has a right of  
21 election, under the limitations and conditions stated in this chapter, to take an  
22 elective share ~~of one-half~~ amount equal to fifty percent of the marital-property  
23 portion augmented estate. of the augmented estate.

24          2. If the sum of the amounts described in subdivision d of subsection 2 of section  
25 30.1-05-02, subdivision a of subsection 1 of section 30.1-05-03, and that part of  
26 the elective-share amount payable from the decedent's probate net estate and  
27 nonprobate transfers to others under subsections 2 and 3 of section 30.1-05-03 is  
28 less than ~~fifty~~ seventy-five thousand dollars, the surviving spouse is entitled to a  
29 supplemental elective-share amount equal to ~~fifty~~ seventy-five thousand dollars  
30 minus the sum of the amounts described in those sections. The supplemental  
31 elective-share amount is payable from the decedent's probate estate and from

1 recipients of the decedent's nonprobate transfers to others in the order of priority  
2 set forth in subsections 2 and 3 of section 30.1-05-03.

3 3. If the right of election is exercised by or on behalf of the surviving spouse, the  
4 surviving spouse's homestead allowance, exempt property, and family allowance, if  
5 any, are not charged against, but are in addition to, the elective-share and  
6 supplemental elective-share amounts.

7 4. The right, if any, of the surviving spouse of a decedent who dies domiciled outside  
8 this state to take an elective share in property in this state is governed by the law of  
9 the decedent's domicile at death.

10 **SECTION 16. AMENDMENT.** Section 30.1-05-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
11 amended and reenacted as follows:

12 **30.1-05-02. (2-202) Augmented estate.**

13 1. a. In this section:

14 (1) "Decedent's nonprobate transfers to others" means the decedent's  
15 nonprobate transfers to persons, other than the decedent's spouse,  
16 surviving spouse, the decedent, or the decedent's creditors, estate, or  
17 estate creditors, that are included in the augmented estate under  
18 subdivision b of subsection 2.

19 (2) "Fractional interest in property held in joint tenancy with the right of  
20 survivorship", whether the fractional interest is unilaterally severable or  
21 not, means the fraction, the numerator of which is one and the  
22 denominator of which, if the decedent was a joint tenant, is one plus the  
23 number of joint tenants who survive the decedent and which, if the  
24 decedent was not a joint tenant, is the number of joint tenants.

25 (3) "Marriage", as it relates to a transfer by the decedent during marriage,  
26 means any marriage of the decedent to the decedent's surviving  
27 spouse.

28 (4) "Nonadverse party" means a person who does not have a substantial  
29 beneficial interest in the trust or other property arrangement that would  
30 be adversely affected by the exercise or nonexercise of the power that  
31 the person possesses respecting the trust or other property

- 1 arrangement. A person having a general power of appointment over  
2 property is deemed to have a beneficial interest in the property.
- 3 (5) "Power" or "power of appointment" includes a power to designate the  
4 beneficiary of a beneficiary designation.
- 5 (6) "Presently exercisable general power of appointment" means a power  
6 of appointment under which, at the time in question, the decedent,  
7 whether or not the decedent then had the capacity to exercise the  
8 power, held a power to create a present or future interest in the  
9 decedent, the decedent's creditors, the decedent's estate, or the  
10 creditors of the decedent's estate, and includes a power to revoke or  
11 invade the principle of a trust or other property arrangement.
- 12 (7) ~~"Probate estate" means property, whether movable or immovable,  
13 wherever situated, that would pass by intestate succession if the  
14 decedent died without a valid will.~~
- 15 ~~(8)~~ "Property" includes values subject to a beneficiary designation.
- 16 ~~(9)~~ (8) "Right to income" includes a right to payments under a commercial or  
17 private annuity, an annuity trust, a unitrust, or a similar arrangement.
- 18 ~~(10)~~ (9) "Transfer", as it relates to a transfer by or of the decedent, includes:  
19 (a) An exercise or release of a presently exercisable general power  
20 of appointment held by the decedent;  
21 (b) A lapse at death of a presently exercisable general power of  
22 appointment held by the decedent; and  
23 (c) An exercise, release, or lapse of a general power of appointment  
24 that the decedent created in the decedent and of a power  
25 described in subparagraph b of paragraph 2 of subdivision b of  
26 subsection 2 that the decedent conferred on a nonadverse party.
- 27 b. In subparagraph a of paragraph 3 of subdivision b of subsection 2,  
28 "termination", with respect to a right or interest in property, means that the  
29 right or interest terminated by the terms of the governing instrument or that  
30 the decedent transferred or relinquished the right or interests; and, with  
31 respect to a power over property, means that the power terminated by

1 exercise, release, lapse, in default, or otherwise, except that, with respect to a  
2 power described in subparagraph a of paragraph 1 of subdivision b of  
3 subsection 2, "termination" means that the power terminated by exercise or  
4 release, but not by lapse nor in default or otherwise.

5 2. The augmented estate consists of the sum of:

6 a. The value of the decedent's probate estate, reduced by funeral and  
7 administration expenses, homestead allowance as defined in section  
8 47-18-01, family allowances, exempt property, and enforceable claims.

9 b. The value of the decedent's nonprobate transfers to others, which are  
10 composed of all property, whether movable or immovable, wherever situated,  
11 not included in the decedent's probate estate, of any of the following types:

12 (1) Property of any of the following types that passed outside probate at the  
13 decedent's death:

14 (a) Property over which the decedent alone, immediately before  
15 death, held a presently exercisable general power of appointment  
16 created by the decedent during the marriage; the amount  
17 included is the value of the property subject to the power, to the  
18 extent that the property passed at the decedent's death, by  
19 exercise, release, lapse, in default, or otherwise, to or for the  
20 benefit of any person other than the decedent's estate or  
21 surviving spouse.

22 (b) The decedent's fractional interest in property, held by the  
23 decedent in joint tenancy with the right of survivorship; the  
24 amount included is the value of the decedent's fractional interest  
25 contributed by the decedent during the marriage, to the extent  
26 that that fractional interest passed by right of survivorship at the  
27 decedent's death to a surviving joint tenant other than the  
28 decedent's surviving spouse.

29 (c) The decedent's ownership interest in property or accounts held in  
30 POD, TOD, or coownership registration with the right of  
31 survivorship; the amount included is the value of the decedent's

1 ownership interest, to the extent that the decedent's ownership  
2 interest passed at the decedent's death to or for the benefit of  
3 any person other than the decedent's estate or surviving spouse.

4 (2) Property transferred in any of the following forms by the decedent  
5 during marriage:

6 (a) Any irrevocable transfer in which the decedent retained the right  
7 to the possession or enjoyment of, or the income from, the  
8 property if and to the extent that the decedent's right terminated  
9 at or continued beyond the decedent's death; the amount  
10 included is the value of the fraction of the property to which the  
11 decedent's right related, to the extent that that fraction of the  
12 property passed outside probate to or for the benefit of any  
13 person other than the decedent's estate or surviving spouse.

14 (b) Any transfer in which the decedent created a power over the  
15 income or principal of the transferred property, exercisable by the  
16 decedent alone or in conjunction with any other person, or  
17 exercisable by a nonadverse party, for the benefit of the  
18 decedent, the decedent's creditors, the decedent's estate, or the  
19 creditors of the decedent's estate; the amount included is the  
20 value of the property subject to the power, to the extent that the  
21 power was exercisable at the decedent's death to or for the  
22 benefit of any person other than the decedent's surviving spouse  
23 or to the extent that the property subject to the power passed at  
24 the decedent's death, by exercise, release, lapse, in default, or  
25 otherwise, to or for the benefit of any person other than the  
26 decedent's estate or surviving spouse.

27 (3) Property that passed during marriage and during the two-year period  
28 next preceding the decedent's death as a result of a transfer by the  
29 decedent if the transfer was of any of the following types:

30 (a) Any property that passed as a result of termination of a right or  
31 interest in, or power over, property that would have been included

1 in the augmented estate under subparagraph a, b, or c of  
2 paragraph 1 of this subdivision, or under paragraph 2 of this  
3 subdivision, if the right, interest, or power had not terminated until  
4 the decedent's death; the amount included is the value of the  
5 property that would have been included under these subsections,  
6 except that the property is valued at the time that the right,  
7 interest, or power terminated, and is included only to the extent  
8 that the property passed upon termination to or for the benefit of  
9 any person other than the decedent or the decedent's estate,  
10 spouse, or surviving spouse.

11 (b) Any transfer of property, to the extent not otherwise included in  
12 the augmented estate, made to or for the benefit of a person  
13 other than the decedent's surviving spouse; the amount included  
14 is the value of the transferred property to the extent that the  
15 aggregate transfers to any one donee in either of the two years  
16 exceeded ten thousand dollars.

17 c. The value of the decedent's nonprobate transfers to the decedent's surviving  
18 spouse, which are composed of all property that passed outside probate at  
19 the decedent's death from the decedent to the surviving spouse by reason of  
20 the decedent's death, including:

21 (1) The decedent's fractional interest in property held as a joint tenant with  
22 the right of survivorship, to the extent that the decedent's fractional  
23 interest passed to the surviving spouse as surviving joint tenant;

24 (2) The decedent's ownership interest in property or accounts held in  
25 coownership registration with the right of survivorship, to the extent the  
26 decedent's ownership interest passed to the surviving spouse as  
27 surviving coowner;

28 (3) Proceeds of insurance, including accidental death benefits, on the life of  
29 the decedent, if the decedent owned the insurance policy immediately  
30 before death or if, and to the extent that, the decedent alone and  
31 immediately before death held a presently exercisable general power of

- 1 appointment over the policy or its proceeds; the amount included is the  
2 value of the proceeds, to the extent that they were payable at the  
3 decedent's death; and
- 4 (4) All other property that would have been included in the augmented  
5 estate under paragraph 1 or 2 of subdivision b of this subsection had it  
6 passed to or for the benefit of a person other than the decedent's  
7 spouse, surviving spouse, the decedent, or the decedent's creditors,  
8 estate, or estate creditors, but excluding property passing to the  
9 surviving spouse under the federal social security system.
- 10 d. Except to the extent included in the augmented estate under subdivision a or  
11 c, the value of property:
- 12 (1) That was owned by the decedent's surviving spouse at the decedent's  
13 death, including:
- 14 (a) The surviving spouse's fractional interest in property held in joint  
15 tenancy with the right of survivorship;
- 16 (b) The surviving spouse's ownership interest in property or accounts  
17 held in coownership registration with the right of survivorship; and
- 18 (c) Property that passed to the surviving spouse by reason of the  
19 decedent's death, but not including the spouse's right to  
20 homestead allowance, family allowance, exempt property, or  
21 payments under the federal social security system.
- 22 (2) That would have been included in the surviving spouse's nonprobate  
23 transfers to others, other than the spouse's fractional and ownership  
24 interest included under subparagraphs a and b of paragraph 1, had the  
25 spouse been the decedent. Property included under this paragraph is  
26 valued at the decedent's death, taking the fact that the decedent  
27 predeceased the spouse into account, except that, for purposes of  
28 subparagraphs a and b of paragraph 1, the values of the spouse's  
29 fractional and ownership interests are determined immediately before  
30 the decedent's death if the decedent was then a joint tenant or a  
31 coowner of the property or accounts. The value of property included

1 under this paragraph is reduced in each category by enforceable claims  
2 against the included property and is reduced by enforceable claims  
3 against the surviving spouse.

4 3. The value of any property is excluded from the decedent's nonprobate transfers to  
5 others to the extent the decedent received adequate and full consideration in  
6 money or money's worth for a transfer of the property or if the property was  
7 transferred with the written joinder of, or if the transfer was consented to in writing  
8 by, the surviving spouse. Life insurance, accident insurance, pension,  
9 profit-sharing, retirement, and other benefit plans payable to persons other than the  
10 decedent's surviving spouse or the decedent's estate are also excluded from the  
11 decedent's nonprobate transfers.

12 4. The value of property includes the commuted value of any present or future  
13 interest and the commuted value of amounts payable under any trust, life  
14 insurance settlement option, annuity contract, public or private pension, disability  
15 compensation, death benefit or retirement plan, or any similar arrangement,  
16 exclusive of the federal social security system.

17 5. In case of overlapping application to the same property of the paragraphs or  
18 subparagraphs of subsection 2, the property is included in the augmented estate  
19 under the provision yielding the highest value, but under any one, but only one, of  
20 the overlapping provisions if they all yield the same value.

21 **SECTION 17. AMENDMENT.** Section 30.1-07-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
22 amended and reenacted as follows:

23 **30.1-07-01. (2-403) Exempt property.** In addition to the homestead defined in section  
24 47-18-01, the decedent's surviving spouse is entitled from the estate to a value, not exceeding  
25 ~~ten~~ fifteen thousand dollars in excess of any security interests therein, in household furniture,  
26 automobiles, furnishings, appliances, and personal effects. If there is no surviving spouse, the  
27 decedent's minor children, whom the decedent was obligated to support and children who were  
28 in fact being supported by the decedent, are entitled jointly to the same value. If encumbered  
29 chattels are selected and the value in excess of security interests, plus that of other exempt  
30 property, is less than ten thousand dollars, or if there is not ~~ten~~ fifteen thousand dollars worth of  
31 exempt property in the estate, the spouse or such children are entitled to other assets of the

1 estate, if any, to the extent necessary to make up the ~~ten~~ fifteen thousand dollar value. Rights  
2 to exempt property and assets needed to make up a deficiency of exempt property have priority  
3 over all claims against the estate, but the right to any assets to make up a deficiency of exempt  
4 property abates as necessary to permit earlier payment of the homestead allowance and family  
5 allowance. These rights are in addition to any benefit or share passing to the surviving spouse  
6 or children by the decedent's will, unless otherwise provided, by intestate succession, or by way  
7 of elective share.

8 **SECTION 18. AMENDMENT.** Section 30.1-07-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
9 amended and reenacted as follows:

10 **30.1-07-03. (2-405) Source, determination, and documentation.**

- 11 1. If the estate is otherwise sufficient, property specifically devised may not be used  
12 to satisfy rights to exempt property. Subject to this restriction, the surviving  
13 spouse, guardians of minor children, or children who are adults may select  
14 property of the estate as exempt property. The personal representative may make  
15 those selections if the surviving spouse, the children, or the guardians of the minor  
16 children are unable or fail to do so within a reasonable time, or there is no guardian  
17 of a minor child. The personal representative may execute an instrument or deed  
18 of distribution to establish the ownership of property taken as exempt property.  
19 The personal representative may determine the family allowance in a lump sum not  
20 exceeding ~~eighteen~~ twenty-seven thousand dollars or periodic installments not  
21 exceeding ~~one two~~ thousand ~~five two~~ hundred fifty dollars per month for one year  
22 and may disburse funds of the estate in payment of the family allowance. The  
23 personal representative or any interested person aggrieved by any selection,  
24 determination, payment, proposed payment, or failure to act under this section may  
25 petition the court for appropriate relief, which may include a family allowance other  
26 than that which the personal representative determined or could have determined.
- 27 2. If the right to an elective share is exercised on behalf of a surviving spouse who is  
28 an incapacitated person, the personal representative may add any unexpended  
29 portions payable under the homestead allowance, exempt property, and family  
30 allowance to the trust established under subsection 2 of section 30.1-05-06.

1           **SECTION 19. AMENDMENT.** Section 30.1-08-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
2 amended and reenacted as follows:

3           **30.1-08-02. (2-502) Execution - Witnessed wills - Holographic wills.**

- 4           1. Except as provided in subsection 2 and in sections 30.1-08-06 and 30.1-08-13, a  
5 will must be:  
6           a. In writing.  
7           b. Signed by the testator or in the testator's name by some other individual in the  
8 testator's conscious presence and by the testator's direction.  
9           c. ~~Signed by~~ Either signed:  
10           (1) By at least two individuals, each of whom signed within a reasonable  
11 time after witnessing either the signing of the will as described in  
12 subdivision b or the testator's acknowledgment of that signature or  
13 acknowledgment of the will; or  
14           (2) Acknowledged by the testator before a notary public or other individual  
15 authorized by law to take acknowledgments.  
16           2. A will that does not comply with subsection 1 is valid as a holographic will, whether  
17 or not witnessed, if the signature and material portions of the document are in the  
18 testator's handwriting.  
19           3. Intent that ~~the~~ a document constitute the testator's will can be established by  
20 extrinsic evidence, including, for holographic wills, portions of the document that  
21 are not in the testator's handwriting.

22           **SECTION 20. AMENDMENT.** Section 30.1-08-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
23 amended and reenacted as follows:

24           **30.1-08-04. (2-504) Self-proved will.**

- 25           1. A will that is executed with attesting witnesses may be simultaneously executed,  
26 attested, and made self-proved, by acknowledgment thereof by the testator and  
27 affidavits of the witnesses, each made before an officer authorized to administer  
28 oaths under the laws of the state in which execution occurs and evidenced by the  
29 officer's certificate, under official seal, attached or annexed to the will in  
30 substantially the following form:

31           ~~THE~~ STATE OF \_\_\_\_\_

1 COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_

2 I, \_\_\_\_\_, the testator, sign my name to this instrument  
3 this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and being first sworn, declare to the  
4 undersigned authority that I sign and execute this instrument as my will and that I  
5 sign it willingly or willingly direct another to sign for me, that I execute it as my free  
6 and voluntary act for the purposes therein expressed, and that I am ~~eighteen~~ 18  
7 years of age or older, of sound mind, and under no constraint or undue influence.

8 \_\_\_\_\_  
9 Testator

10 We, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, the witnesses, sign our  
11 names to this instrument, and being first sworn, declare to the undersigned  
12 authority that the testator signs and executes this instrument as the testator's will  
13 and that the testator signs it willingly or willingly directs another to sign for the  
14 testator, and that each of us, in the presence and hearing of the testator, signs this  
15 will as witness to the testator's signing, and that to the best of our knowledge the  
16 testator is ~~eighteen~~ 18 years of age or older, of sound mind, and under no  
17 constraint or undue influence.

18 \_\_\_\_\_  
19 Witness

20 \_\_\_\_\_  
21 Witness

22 Subscribed, sworn to, and acknowledged before me by \_\_\_\_\_, the  
23 testator, and subscribed and sworn to before me by \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_,  
24 witness, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_.

25 (SEAL) (Signed) \_\_\_\_\_

26 \_\_\_\_\_  
27 (Official capacity of officer)

28 2. ~~An attested~~ a will that is executed with attesting witnesses may at any time after its  
29 execution be made self-proved, by the acknowledgment thereof by the testator and  
30 the affidavits of the witnesses, each made before an officer authorized to  
31 administer oaths under the laws of the state in which the acknowledgment occurs

1 and evidenced by the officer's certificate, under the official seal, attached or  
2 annexed to the will in substantially the following form:

3 ~~THE~~ STATE OF \_\_\_\_\_

4 COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_

5 We, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, the testator and the  
6 witnesses, respectively, whose names are signed to the attached or foregoing  
7 instrument, being first duly sworn, do hereby declare to the undersigned authority  
8 that the testator signed and executed the instrument as the testator's will and that  
9 the testator had signed willingly or willingly directed another to sign for the testator,  
10 and that the testator executed it as the testator's free and voluntary act for the  
11 purposes therein expressed; and that each of the witnesses, in the presence and  
12 hearing of the testator, signed the will as witness and that to the best of our  
13 knowledge the testator was at that time ~~eighteen or more~~ 18 years of age or older,  
14 of sound mind, and under no constraint or undue influence.

15 \_\_\_\_\_

16 Testator

17 \_\_\_\_\_

18 Witness

19 \_\_\_\_\_

20 Witness

21 Subscribed, sworn to and acknowledged before me by \_\_\_\_\_,  
22 the testator, and subscribed and sworn to before me by \_\_\_\_\_ and  
23 \_\_\_\_\_, witnesses, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

24 (SEAL) (Signed) \_\_\_\_\_

25 \_\_\_\_\_

26 (Official capacity of officer)

27 3. A signature affixed to a self-proving affidavit attached to a will is considered a  
28 signature affixed to the will, if necessary to prove the will's due execution.

29 **SECTION 21. AMENDMENT.** y Section 30.1-09.1-05 of the North Dakota Century  
30 Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

1           **30.1-09.1-05. (2-705) Class gifts construed to accord with intestate succession**

2    **-Exceptions.**

3           1. ~~Adopted individuals~~ In this section:

4           a. "Adoptee" has the meaning set forth in section 30.1-04-14;

5           b. "Child of assisted reproduction" has the meaning set forth in section  
6           30.1-04-19;

7           c. "Distribution date" means the time when an immediate or a postponed class  
8           gift is to take effect in possession or enjoyment.

9           d. "Functioned as a parent of the adoptee" has the meaning set forth in section  
10           30.1-04-15, substituting "adoptee" for "child" in that definition.

11           e. "Functioned as a parent of the child" has the meaning set forth in section  
12           30.1-04-14;

13           f. "Gestational child" has the meaning set forth in section 30.1-04-20;

14           g. "Genetic parent" has the meaning set forth in section 30.1-04-14; and

15           h. "Relative" has the meaning set forth in section 30.1-04-14.

16           2. A child of assisted reproduction, a gestational child, and except as otherwise  
17           provided in subsections 3 and 4, are adoptee and ~~individuals born out of wedlock a~~  
18           child born to parents not married to each other, and their respective descendants if  
19           appropriate to the class, are included in class gifts and other terms of relationship  
20           in accordance with the rules for intestate succession. Terms of relationship in a  
21           governing instrument that do not differentiate relationships by blood from those by  
22           affinity marriage, such as "uncles", "aunts", "nieces", or "nephews", are construed  
23           to exclude relatives by affinity marriage. Terms of relationship in a governing  
24           instrument that do not differentiate relationships by the half blood from those by the  
25           whole blood, such as "brothers", "sisters", "nieces", or "nephews", are construed  
26           to include both types of relationships unless:

27           a. When the governing instrument was executed, the class was then and  
28           foreseeably would be empty; or

29           b. The language or circumstances otherwise establish that relatives by marriage  
30           were intended to be included.

1       ~~2.~~ 3. In ~~addition to the requirements of subsection 1,~~ in construing a dispositive  
2       provision of a transferor who is not the ~~natural~~ genetic parent, ~~an individual born to~~  
3       ~~the natural~~ a child of a genetic parent is not considered the child of that parent  
4       unless the ~~individual lived while a minor as a regular member of the household of~~  
5       ~~that natural parent or of that parent's parent, brother, sister, spouse, or surviving~~  
6       ~~spouse~~ parent, a relative of the genetic parent, or the spouse or surviving spouse  
7       of a relative of the genetic parent functioned as a parent of the child before the child  
8       reached eighteen.

9       ~~3.~~ 4. In ~~addition to the requirements of subsection 1,~~ in construing a dispositive  
10       provision of a transferor who is not the ~~adopting~~ adoptive parent, ~~an adopted~~  
11       ~~individual~~ adoptee is not considered the child of the ~~adopting~~ adoptive parent  
12       unless the ~~adopted individual lived while a minor, either before or after the~~  
13       ~~adoption, as a regular member of the household of the adopting parent:~~

- 14       a. The adoption took place before the adoptee reached eighteen years of age;  
15       b. The adoptive parent was the adoptee's stepparent or foster parent; or  
16       c. The adoptive parent functioned as a parent of the adoptee before the adoptee  
17       reached eighteen years of age.

18       5. The following rules apply for purposes of the class-closing rules:

- 19       a. A child in utero at a particular time is treated as living at that time if the child  
20       lives one hundred twenty hours after birth.  
21       b. If a child of assisted reproduction or a gestational child is conceived  
22       posthumously and the distribution date is the deceased parent's death, the  
23       child is treated as living on the distribution date if the child lives one hundred  
24       twenty hours after birth and was in utero not later than thirty-six months after  
25       the deceased parent's death or born not later than forty-five months after the  
26       deceased parent's death.  
27       c. An individual who is in the process of being adopted when the class closes is  
28       treated as adopted when the class closes if the adoption is subsequently  
29       granted.

30       **SECTION 22. AMENDMENT.** Section 30.1-09.1-07 of the North Dakota Century Code  
31       is amended and reenacted as follows:

1           **30.1-09.1-07. (2-707) Survivorship with respect to future interests under the**  
2 **terms of a trust - Substitute takers.**

3           1. In this section:

4           a. "Alternative future interest" means to an expressly created future interest that  
5           can take effect in possession or enjoyment instead of another future interest  
6           on the happening of one or more events, including survival of an event or  
7           failure to survive an event, whether an event is expressed in  
8           condition-precedent, condition-subsequent, or any other form. A residuary  
9           clause in a will does not create an alternative future interest with respect to a  
10          future interest created in a nonresiduary devise in the will, whether or not the  
11          will specifically provides that lapsed or failed devises are to pass under the  
12          residuary clause.

13          b. "Beneficiary" means the beneficiary of a future interest and includes a class  
14          member if the future interest is in the form of a class gift.

15          c. "Class member" includes an individual who fails to survive the distribution  
16          date but who would have taken under a future interest in the form of a class  
17          gift had the individual survived the distribution date.

18          d. "Descendants" in the phrase "surviving descendants" of a deceased  
19          beneficiary or class member in paragraph 1 and 2 of subsections 1 and 2,  
20          means the descendants of a deceased beneficiary or class member who  
21          would take under a class gift created in the trust.

22          e. "Distribution date", with respect to a future interest, means the time when the  
23          future interest is to take effect in possession or enjoyment. The distribution  
24          date need not occur at the beginning or end of a calendar day, but can occur  
25          at a time during the course of a day.

26          e. f. "Future interest" includes an alternative future interest and a future interest in  
27          the form of a class gift.

28          f. g. "Future interest under the terms of a trust" means a future interest that was  
29          created by a transfer creating a trust or to an existing trust or by an exercise  
30          of a power of appointment to an existing trust, directing the continuance of an  
31          existing trust, designating a beneficiary of an existing trust, or creating a trust.

- 1           ~~g~~ h. "Surviving" in the phrase surviving "surviving beneficiary" or "surviving  
2           descendant" means a beneficiary or a descendant who neither predeceased  
3           the distribution date nor is deemed to have predeceased the distribution date  
4           under section 30.1-09.1-02.
- 5           2. A future interest under the terms of a trust is contingent on the beneficiary's  
6           surviving the distribution date. If a beneficiary of a future interest under the terms  
7           of a trust fails to survive the distribution date, the following apply:
- 8           a. Except as provided in subdivision d, if the future interest is not in the form of a  
9           class gift and the deceased beneficiary leaves surviving descendants, a  
10          substitute gift is created in the beneficiary's surviving descendants. They take  
11          by representation the property to which the beneficiary would have been  
12          entitled had the beneficiary survived the distribution date.
- 13          b. Except as provided in subdivision d, if the future interest is in the form of a  
14          class gift, other than a future interest to "issue", "descendants", "heirs of the  
15          body", "heirs", "next of kin", "relatives", or "family", or a class described by  
16          language of similar import, a substitute gift is created in the surviving  
17          descendants of any deceased beneficiary. The property to which the  
18          beneficiaries would have been entitled had all of them survived the distribution  
19          date passes to the surviving beneficiaries and the surviving descendants of  
20          the deceased beneficiaries. Each surviving beneficiary takes the share to  
21          which the surviving beneficiary would have been entitled had the deceased  
22          beneficiaries survived the distribution date. Each deceased beneficiary's  
23          surviving descendants who are substituted for the deceased beneficiary take  
24          by representation the share to which the deceased beneficiary would have  
25          been entitled had the deceased beneficiary survived the distribution date. For  
26          the purposes of this paragraph, "deceased beneficiary" means a class  
27          member who failed to survive the distribution date and left one or more  
28          surviving descendants.
- 29          c. For purposes of section 30.1-09.1-01, words of survivorship attached to a  
30          future interest are not, in the absence of additional evidence, a sufficient  
31          indication of an intent contrary to the application of this section. Words of

- 1 survivorship include words of survivorship that relate to the distribution date or  
2 to an earlier or an unspecified time, whether those words of survivorship are  
3 expressed in condition-precedent, condition-subsequent, or any other form.
- 4 d. If a governing instrument creates an alternative future interest with respect to  
5 a future interest for which a substitute gift is created by subdivision a or b, the  
6 substitute gift is superseded by the alternative future interest ~~only if an~~  
7 ~~expressly designated beneficiary of the alternative future interest:~~
- 8 (1) The alternative future interest is in the form of a class gift and one or  
9 more members of the class is entitled to take in possession or  
10 enjoyment; or
- 11 (2) The alternative future interest is not in the form of a class gift and the  
12 expressly designated beneficiary of the alternative future interest is  
13 entitled to take in possession or enjoyment.
- 14 3. If, under subsection 2, substitute gifts are created and not superseded with respect  
15 to more than one future interest and the future interests are alternative future  
16 interests, one to the other, the determination of which of the substitute gifts takes  
17 effect is resolved as follows:
- 18 a. Except as provided in subdivision b, the property passes under the primary  
19 substitute gift.
- 20 b. If there is a younger-generation future interest, the property passes under the  
21 younger-generation substitute gift and not under the primary substitute gift.
- 22 c. In this subsection:
- 23 (1) "Primary future interest" means the future interest that would have  
24 taken effect had all the deceased beneficiaries of the alternative future  
25 interest who left surviving descendants survived the distribution date.
- 26 (2) "Primary substitute gift" means the substitute gift created with respect to  
27 the primary future interest.
- 28 (3) "Younger-generation future interest" means a future interest that is to a  
29 descendant of a beneficiary of the primary future interest, is an  
30 alternative future interest with respect to the primary future interest, is a  
31 future interest for which a substitute gift is created, and would have

1 taken effect had all the deceased beneficiaries who left surviving  
2 descendants survived the distribution date except the deceased  
3 beneficiary of beneficiaries of the primary future interest.

4 (4) "Younger-generation substitute gift" means the substitute gift created  
5 with respect to the younger-generation future interest.

6 4. Except as provided in subsection 5, if, after the application of subsections 2 and 3,  
7 there is no surviving taker, the property passes in the following order:

8 a. If the trust was created in a nonresiduary devise in the transferor's will or in a  
9 codicil to the transferor's will, the property passes under the residuary clause  
10 in the transferor's will; for purposes of this section, the residuary clause is  
11 treated as creating a future interest under the terms of a trust.

12 b. If no taker is produced by the application of subdivision a, the property passes  
13 to the transferor's heirs under section 30.1-09.1-11.

14 5. If, after the application of subsections 2 and 3, there is no surviving taker and if the  
15 future interest was created by the exercise of a power of appointment:

16 a. The property passes under the donor's gift-in-default clause, if any, which  
17 clause is treated as creating a future interest under the terms of a trust; and

18 b. If no taker is produced by the application of subdivision a, the property passes  
19 as provided in subsection 4. For purposes of subsection 4, "transferor"  
20 means the donor if the power was a nongeneral power and means the donee  
21 if the power was a general power.

22 **SECTION 23. AMENDMENT.** Section 30.1-09.1-06 of the North Dakota Century Code  
23 is amended and reenacted as follows:

24 **30.1-09.1-06. (2-706) Life insurance - Retirement plan - Account with payable on**  
25 **death designation - Transfer-on-death registration - Deceased beneficiary.**

26 1. In this section:

27 a. "Alternative beneficiary designation" means a beneficiary designation that is  
28 expressly created by the governing instrument and, under the terms of the  
29 governing instrument, can take effect instead of another beneficiary  
30 designation on the happening of one or more events, including survival of the

- 1                   decedent or failure to survive the decedent, whether an event is expressed in  
2                   condition-precedent, condition-subsequent, or any other form.
- 3                   b. "Beneficiary" means the beneficiary of a beneficiary designation under which  
4                   the beneficiary must survive the decedent and includes a class member if the  
5                   beneficiary designation is in the form of a class gift and includes an individual  
6                   or class member who was deceased at the time the beneficiary designation  
7                   was executed as well as an individual or class member who was then living  
8                   but who failed to survive the decedent, but excludes a joint tenant of a joint  
9                   tenancy with the right of survivorship and a party to a joint and survivorship  
10                  account.
- 11                  c. "Beneficiary designation" includes an alternative beneficiary designation and a  
12                  beneficiary designation in the form of a class gift.
- 13                  d. "Class member" includes an individual who fails to survive the decedent but  
14                  who would have taken under a beneficiary designation in the form of a class  
15                  gift had the individual survived the decedent.
- 16                  e. "Descendant of a grandparent", as used in subsection 2, means an individual  
17                  who qualifies as a descendant of a grandparent of the decedent under the  
18                  rules of construction applicable to a class gift created in the decedent's  
19                  beneficiary designation if the beneficiary designation is in the form of a class  
20                  gift or rules for intestate succession if the beneficiary designation is not in the  
21                  form of a class gift.
- 22                  f. "Descendants", as used in the phrase "surviving descendants" of a deceased  
23                  beneficiary or class member in subdivisions a and b of subsection 2, mean  
24                  the descendants of a deceased beneficiary or class member who would take  
25                  under a class gift created in the beneficiary designation.
- 26                  g. "Stepchild" means a child of the decedent's surviving, deceased, or former  
27                  spouse, and not of the decedent.
- 28                  f. h. "Surviving beneficiary" or "surviving descendant" means a beneficiary or a  
29                  descendant who neither predeceased the decedent nor is deemed to have  
30                  predeceased the decedent under section 30.1-09.1-02.

- 1           2. If a beneficiary fails to survive the decedent and is a grandparent, a descendant of  
2           a grandparent, or a stepchild of the decedent, the following apply:
- 3           a. Except as provided in subdivision d, if the beneficiary designation is not in the  
4           form of a class gift and the deceased beneficiary leaves surviving  
5           descendants, a substitute gift is created in the beneficiary's surviving  
6           descendants. They take by representation the property to which the  
7           beneficiary would have been entitled had the beneficiary survived the  
8           decedent.
- 9           b. Except as provided in subdivision d, if the beneficiary designation is in the  
10          form of a class gift, other than a beneficiary designation to "issue",  
11          "descendants", "heirs of the body", "heirs", "next of kin", "relatives", "family",  
12          or a class described by language of similar import, a substitute gift is created  
13          in the surviving descendants of any deceased beneficiary. The property to  
14          which the beneficiaries would have been entitled had all of them survived the  
15          decedent passes to the surviving beneficiaries and the surviving descendants  
16          of the deceased beneficiaries. Each surviving beneficiary takes the share to  
17          which the surviving beneficiary would have been entitled had the deceased  
18          beneficiaries survived the decedent. Each deceased beneficiary's surviving  
19          descendants who are substituted for the deceased beneficiary take by  
20          representation the share to which the deceased beneficiary would have been  
21          entitled had the deceased beneficiary survived the decedent. For the  
22          purposes of this subdivision, "deceased beneficiary" means a class member  
23          who failed to survive the decedent and left one or more surviving  
24          descendants.
- 25          c. For purposes of section 30.1-09.1-01, words of survivorship, such as in a  
26          beneficiary designation to an individual "if the individual survives me", or in a  
27          beneficiary designation to "my surviving children", are not, in the absence of  
28          additional evidence, a sufficient indication of an intent contrary to the  
29          application of this section.
- 30          d. If a governing instrument creates an alternative beneficiary designation with  
31          respect to a beneficiary designation for which a substitute gift is created by

- 1 subdivision a or b, the substitute gift is superseded by the alternative  
2 beneficiary designation ~~only if an expressly designated beneficiary of the~~  
3 ~~alternative beneficiary designation~~;
- 4 (1) The alternative beneficiary designation is in the form of a class gift and  
5 one or more members of the class is entitled to take; or
- 6 (2) The alternative beneficiary designation is not in the form of a class gift  
7 and the expressly designated beneficiary of the alternative beneficiary  
8 designation is entitled to take.
- 9 3. If, under subsection 2, substitute gifts are created and not superseded with respect  
10 to more than one beneficiary designation, and the beneficiary designations are  
11 alternative beneficiary designations, one to the other, the determination of which of  
12 the substitute gifts takes effect is resolved as follows:
- 13 a. Except as provided in subdivision b, the property passes under the primary  
14 substitute gift.
- 15 b. If there is a younger-generation beneficiary designation, the property passes  
16 under the younger-generation substitute gift and not under the primary  
17 substitute gift.
- 18 c. In this subsection:
- 19 (1) "Primary beneficiary designation" means the beneficiary designation  
20 that would have taken effect had all the deceased beneficiaries of the  
21 alternative beneficiary designations who left surviving descendants  
22 survived the decedent.
- 23 (2) "Primary substitute gift" means the substitute gift created with respect to  
24 the primary beneficiary designation.
- 25 (3) "Younger-generation beneficiary designation" means a beneficiary  
26 designation that is to a descendant of a beneficiary of the primary  
27 beneficiary designation, is an alternative beneficiary designation with  
28 respect to the primary beneficiary designation, is a beneficiary  
29 designation for which a substitute gift is created, and would have taken  
30 effect had all the deceased beneficiaries who left surviving descendants

1 survived the decedent except the deceased beneficiary or beneficiaries  
2 of the primary beneficiary designation.

3 (4) "Younger-generation substitute gift" means the substitute gift created  
4 with respect to the younger-generation beneficiary designation.

5 4. a. A payer is protected from liability in making payments under the terms of the  
6 beneficiary designation until the payer has received written notice of a claim to  
7 a substitute gift under this section. Payment made before the receipt of  
8 written notice of a claim to a substitute gift under this section discharges the  
9 payer, but not the recipient, from all claims for the amounts paid. A payer is  
10 liable for a payment made after the payer has received written notice of the  
11 claim. A recipient is liable for a payment received, whether or not written  
12 notice of the claim is given.

13 b. The written notice of the claim must be mailed to the payer's main office or  
14 home by registered mail, return receipt requested, or served upon the payer in  
15 the same manner as a summons in a civil action. Upon receipt of written  
16 notice of the claim, a payer may pay any amount owed by it to the court  
17 having jurisdiction of the probate proceedings relating to the decedent's estate  
18 or, if no proceedings have been commenced, to the court having jurisdiction  
19 of probate proceedings relating to decedents' estates located in the county of  
20 the decedent's residence. The court shall hold the funds and, upon its  
21 determination under this section, shall order disbursement in accordance with  
22 the determination. Payment made to the court discharges the payer from all  
23 claims for the amounts paid.

24 5. a. A person who purchases property for value and without notice, or who  
25 receives a payment or other item of property in partial or full satisfaction of a  
26 legally enforceable obligation, is neither obligated under this section to return  
27 the payment, item of property, or benefit nor is liable under this section for the  
28 amount of the payment or the value of the item of property or benefit. But a  
29 person who, not for value, receives a payment, item of property, or any other  
30 benefit to which the person is not entitled under this section is obligated to  
31 return the payment, item of property, or benefit, or is personally liable for the

1 amount of the payment or the value of the item or property or benefit, to the  
2 person who is entitled to it under this section.

3 b. If this section or any part of this section is preempted by federal law with  
4 respect to a payment, an item of property, or any other benefit covered by this  
5 section, a person who, not for value, receives the payment, item of property,  
6 or any other benefit to which the person is not entitled under this section is  
7 obligated to return the payment, item of property, or benefit, or is personally  
8 liable for the amount of the payment or the value of the item of property or  
9 benefit, to the person who would have been entitled to it were this section or  
10 part of this section not preempted.

11 **SECTION 24.** Section 30.1-10-05 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and  
12 enacted as follows:

13 **Reformation to correct mistakes.** The court may reform the terms of a governing  
14 instrument, even if unambiguous, to conform the terms to the transferor's intention if it is proved  
15 by clear and convincing evidence that the transferor's intent and the terms of the governing  
16 instrument were affected by a mistake of fact or law, whether in expression or inducement.

17 **SECTION 25.** Section 30.1-10-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and  
18 enacted as follows:

19 **Modification to achieve transferor's tax objectives.** To achieve the transferor's tax  
20 objectives, the court may modify the terms of a governing instrument in a manner that is not  
21 contrary to the transferor's probable intention. The court may provide that the modification has  
22 retroactive effect.

23 **SECTION 26. AMENDMENT.** Section 30.1-15-06 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
24 amended and reenacted as follows:

25 **30.1-15-06. (3-406) Formal testacy proceedings - Contested cases** ~~—Testimony of~~  
26 ~~attesting witnesses.~~ in a contested case in which the proper execution of a will is at issue, the  
27 following rules apply:

28 1. ~~If evidence concerning execution of an attested will which is not self-proved is~~  
29 ~~necessary in contested cases, the testimony of at least one of the attesting~~  
30 ~~witnesses, if within the state, competent, and able to testify, is required. Due~~  
31 ~~execution of an attested or unattested will may be proved by other evidence.~~ If the

- 1           will is self-proved pursuant to section 30.1-08-04, the will complies with the  
2           requirements for execution without the testimony of any attesting witness, upon  
3           filing the will and the acknowledgment and affidavits annexed or attached to it,  
4           unless there is evidence of fraud or forgery affecting the acknowledgment affidavit.
- 5           2. ~~If the will is self-proved, compliance with signature requirements for execution is~~  
6           ~~conclusively presumed and other requirements of execution are presumed, subject~~  
7           ~~to rebuttal, without the testimony of any witness upon filing the will and the~~  
8           ~~acknowledgment and affidavits annexed or attached thereto, unless there is proof~~  
9           ~~of fraud or forgery affecting the acknowledgment or affidavit. If the will is notarized~~  
10           pursuant to paragraph 2 of subdivision c of subsection 1 of section 30.1-08-02, but  
11           not self-proved, there is a rebuttable presumption that the will complies with the  
12           requirements for execution upon filing the will.
- 13           3. If the will is witnessed pursuant to paragraph 1 of subdivision c of subsection 1 of  
14           section 30.1-08-\_\_\_\_, but not notarized or self-proved, the testimony of at least  
15           one of the attesting witnesses is required to establish proper execution if the  
16           witness is within this state, competent, and able to testify. Proper execution may  
17           be established by other evidence, including an affidavit of an attesting witness. An  
18           attestation clause that is signed by the attesting witnesses raises a rebuttable  
19           presumption that the events recited in the clause occurred.

20           **SECTION 27. AMENDMENT.** Section 30.1-35-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
21 amended and reenacted as follows:

22           **30.1-35-01. Time of taking effect - Provisions for transition.**

- 23           1. This title takes effect on July 1, 1975.
- 24           2. Except as provided elsewhere in this title, on the effective date of this title or any  
25           amendment to this title:
- 26           a.    # The title or amendment applies to any wills of decedents dying thereafter.  
27           No provision of this title, however, shall be effective to invalidate any will  
28           executed prior to July 1, 1975, when that will would be valid under the laws of  
29           this state in effect at the time of its execution.
- 30           b.    The title or amendment applies to any proceedings in court then pending or  
31           thereafter commenced regardless of the time of the death of decedent except

- 1 to the extent that in the opinion of the court the former procedure should be  
2 made applicable in a particular case in the interest of justice or because of  
3 infeasibility of application of the procedure of this title.
- 4 c. Every personal representative including a person administering an estate of a  
5 minor or incompetent holding an appointment on that date continues to hold  
6 the appointment but has only the powers conferred by this title or the  
7 amendment and is subject to the duties imposed with respect to any act  
8 occurring or done thereafter.
- 9 d. An act done before the effective date in any proceeding and any accrued right  
10 is not impaired by this title or the amendment. If a right is acquired,  
11 extinguished, or barred upon the expiration of a prescribed period of time  
12 which has commenced to run by the provisions of any statute before the  
13 effective date, the provisions shall remain in force with respect to that right.
- 14 e. Any rule of construction or presumption provided in this title or the  
15 amendment applies to instruments executed and multiple-party accounts  
16 opened before the effective date unless there is a clear indication of a  
17 contrary intent.
- 18 f. A person holding office as judge of the court on the effective date of this title  
19 may continue the office of judge of this court and may be selected for  
20 additional terms after the effective date of this title.