



# ENACTMENT NEWS

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## House Bill 130 POA/CAA Effective July 20, 2004

House Bill 130 creates two ways for grandparents to obtain “care, physical custody, and control” over grandchildren *without changing legal custody*: 1) Power of Attorney (POA) completed by parent(s), a custodian, or a guardian of a child; and 2) Child Caretaker Authorization Affidavit (CAA), created by the grandparent when the child’s parent(s), guardian, or custodian cannot be located. The documents must be properly signed and notarized [§3109.54 and §3109.67, respectively]. They are valid for one year unless terminated earlier as specified in the bill [ 3109.59 and 3109.70, respectively]. They may be renewed after one year, subject to court review (see below).

These documents may not be used if there are certain pending court proceedings. [§3109.58 and §3109.68, respectively]

Once properly signed and notarized, the executed documents are to be filed with the juvenile court of the county where the grandparent resides or any other court that has jurisdiction over the child. The filing also needs to include information specified in §3109.27. [§3109.74(C) (1)]

Courts *may* report to the Public Childrens Services Agency (PCSA) if the grandparent provides information that the grandparent has a criminal or child abusing history. [§3109.74 (C)(2)]. In addition, if the court has reason to believe that a POA or CAA is not in the best interest of the child, the court *may* report that information to the local Public Children’s Services Agency under §2151.421. [§2151.74 (C)(3)]

The PCSA has 30-45 days to report on the results of its investigation to the court. [§3109.74 (C)(3)]

The bill requires courts to waive filing fees for these documents and related documents. [§3109.74 (C)(4)]

The bill requires courts to verify the filing of a POA or CAA upon the request of schools or others who will be relying upon the POA or CAA. [§3109.75]

**Second and Subsequent filings.** Courts have additional responsibilities for second or subsequent POA or CAAs, as follows:

Second or subsequent POA or CAAs must also be filed with the juvenile court of the county where the grandparent resides or any other court that has jurisdiction over the child. [§3109.76].

Upon the filing of a second/subsequent POA/CAA, the court is required to schedule a hearing to determine whether the POA or CAA is in the child’s best interest. The court shall provide notice of the hearing to parties, including non-residential parents, as appropriate under the bill. [§3109.77 (A)]

The hearing must be held within ten days of the filing. At the hearing, parties, including the non-residential parent (see above), may present evidence and be represented by counsel. The bill is silent as to appointment of counsel. [§3109.77 (B)]

Upon the conclusion of the hearing, the court has the following three options :

- 1) Approve POA/CAA
- 2) Terminate POA/CAA
- 3) Treat filing as a petition for legal custody and award legal custody to the grandparent designated in the POA or CAA. [§3109.77 (C)]

The Court shall conduct *de novo* review of orders if all of the following apply:

- 1) The parent named in the document did not appear at the hearing,
- 2) The parent was not represented by counsel, and
- 3) The parent filed a motion with the court not later than fourteen days after receiving notice of the hearing. [§3109.77 (D)]

**Child Support.** The bill states that the POA/CAA shall have no impact on child support enforcement [§3109.79]

**Only one POA/CAA may be in effect at one time.** [§3109.80]

Attached are reprints of POA/CAA forms as printed in the Act. The forms include notices to those who create and who may rely on the documents.

**CARETAKER AUTHORIZATION AFFIDAVIT**

Use of this affidavit is authorized by sections 3109.65 to 3109.73 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Completion of items 1-7 and the signing and notarization of this affidavit is sufficient to authorize the grandparent signing to exercise care, physical custody, and control of the child who is its subject, including authority to enroll the child in school, to discuss with the school district the child's educational progress, to consent to all school-related matters regarding the child, and to consent to medical, psychological, or dental treatment for the child.

The child named below lives in my home, I am 18 years of age or older, and I am the child's grandparent.

1. Name of child:
2. Child's date and year of birth:
3. Child's social security number (optional):
4. My name:
5. My home address:
6. My date and year of birth:
7. My Ohio driver's license number or identification card number:
8. Despite having made reasonable attempts, I am either:
  - (a) Unable to locate or contact the child's parents, or the child's guardian or custodian; or
  - (b) I am unable to locate or contact one of the child's parents and I am not required to contact the other parent because paternity has not been established; or
  - (c) I am unable to locate or contact one of the child's parents and I am not required to contact the other parent because there is a custody order regarding the child and one of the following is the case:
    - (i) The parent has been prohibited from receiving notice of a relocation; or
    - (ii) The parental rights of the parent have been terminated.
9. I hereby certify that this affidavit is not being executed for the purpose of enrolling the child in a school or school district so that the child may participate in the academic or interscholastic athletic programs provided by that school or district.

I understand that this document does not authorize a child support enforcement agency to redirect child support payments. I further understand that to have an existing child support order modified or a new child support order issued administrative or judicial proceedings must be initiated.

**WARNING: DO NOT SIGN THIS FORM IF ANY OF THE ABOVE STATEMENTS ARE INCORRECT. FALSIFICATION IS A CRIME UNDER SECTION 2921.13 OF THE REVISED CODE, PUNISHABLE BY THE SANCTIONS UNDER CHAPTER 2929. OF THE REVISED CODE, INCLUDING A TERM OF IMPRISONMENT OF UP TO 6 MONTHS, A FINE OF UP TO \$1,000, OR BOTH.**

I declare that the foregoing is true and correct:

Signed:..... Date:.....

Grandparent

State of Ohio )

\_\_\_\_\_ ) ss:

County of \_\_\_\_\_)

Subscribed, sworn to, and acknowledged before me this ..... day of ....., .....

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

**Notices:**

1. The grandparent's signature must be notarized by an Ohio notary public.
2. The grandparent who executed this affidavit must file it with the juvenile court of the county in which the grandparent resides or any other court that has jurisdiction over the child under a previously filed motion or proceeding not later than five days after the date it is executed.
3. A grandparent who executes a second or subsequent caretaker authorization affidavit regarding a child who is the subject of a prior caretaker authorization affidavit must file the affidavit with the juvenile court of the county in which the grandparent resides or any other court that has jurisdiction over the child under a previously filed motion or proceeding. On filing, the court will schedule a hearing to determine whether the caretaker authorization affidavit is in the child's best interest.
4. This affidavit does not affect the rights of the child's parents, guardian, or custodian regarding the care, physical custody, and control of the child, and does not give the grandparent legal custody of the child.
5. A person or entity that relies on this affidavit, in good faith, has no obligation to make any further inquiry or investigation.
6. This affidavit terminates on the occurrence of whichever of the following occurs first: (1) one year elapses following the date the affidavit is notarized; (2) the child ceases to live with the grandparent who signs this form; (3) the parent, guardian, or custodian of the child acts to negate, reverse, or otherwise disapprove an action or decision of the grandparent who signed this affidavit; or (4) the affidavit is terminated by court order; (5) the death of the child who is the subject of the affidavit; or (6) the death of the grandparent who executed the affidavit.

A parent, guardian, or custodian may negate, reverse, or disapprove a grandparent's action or decision only by delivering written notice of negation, reversal, or disapproval to the grandparent and the person acting on the grandparent's action or decision in reliance on this affidavit.

If this affidavit terminates other than by the death of the grandparent, the grandparent who signed this affidavit shall notify, in writing, all of the following:

- (a) Any schools, health care providers, or health insurance coverage provider with which the child has been involved through the grandparent;
- (b) Any other person or entity that has an ongoing relationship with the child or grandparent such that the person or entity would reasonably rely on the affidavit unless notified of the termination;
- (c) The court in which the affidavit was filed after its creation.

The grandparent shall make the notifications not later than one week after the date the affidavit terminates.

7. The decision of a grandparent to consent to or to refuse medical treatment or school enrollment for a child is superseded by a contrary decision of a parent, custodian, or guardian of the child, unless the decision of the parent, guardian, or custodian would jeopardize the life, health, or safety of the child.

**Additional information:**

**To caretakers:**

1. If the child stops living with you, you are required to notify, in writing, any school, health care provider, or health care insurance provider to which you have given this affidavit. You are also required to notify, in writing, any other person or entity that has an ongoing relationship with you or the child such that the person or entity would reasonably rely on the affidavit unless notified. The notifications must be made not later than one week after the child stops living with you.
2. If you do not have the information requested in item 7 (Ohio driver's license or identification card), provide another form of identification such as your social security number or medicaid number.
3. You must include with the caretaker authorization affidavit the following information:
  - (a) The child's present address, the addresses of the places where the child has lived within the last five years, and the name and present address of each person with whom the child has lived during that period;
  - (b) Whether you have participated as a party, a witness, or in any other capacity in any other litigation, in this state or any other state, that concerned the allocation, between the parents of the same child, of parental rights and responsibilities for the care of the child and the designation of the residential parent and legal custodian of the child or that otherwise concerned the custody of the same child;
  - (c) Whether you have information of any parenting proceeding concerning the child pending in a court of this or any other state;
  - (d) Whether you know of any person who has physical custody of the child or claims to be a parent of the child who is designated the residential parent and legal custodian of the child or to have parenting time rights with respect to the child or to be a person other than a parent of the child who has custody or visitation rights with respect to the child;
  - (e) Whether you previously have been convicted of or pleaded guilty to any criminal offense involving any act that resulted in a child being an abused child or a neglected child or previously have been determined, in a case in which a child has been adjudicated an abused child or a neglected child, to be the perpetrator of the abusive or neglectful act that was the basis of the adjudication.

**To school officials:**

1. This affidavit, properly completed and notarized, authorizes the child in question to attend school in the district in which the grandparent who signed this affidavit resides and the grandparent is authorized to provide consent in all school-related matters and to discuss with the school district the child's educational progress. This affidavit does not preclude the parent, guardian, or custodian of the child from having access to all school records pertinent to the child.
2. The school district may require additional reasonable evidence that the grandparent lives at the address provided in item 5.

3. A school district or school official that reasonably and in good faith relies on this affidavit has no obligation to make any further inquiry or investigation.
4. The act of a parent, guardian, or custodian of the child to negate, reverse, or otherwise disapprove an action or decision of the grandparent who signed this affidavit constitutes termination of this affidavit. A parent, guardian, or custodian may negate, reverse, or disapprove a grandparent's action or decision only by delivering written notice of negation, reversal, or disapproval to the grandparent and the person acting on the grandparent's action or decision in reliance on this affidavit.

To health care providers:

1. A person or entity that acts in good faith reliance on a CARETAKER AUTHORIZATION AFFIDAVIT to provide medical, psychological, or dental treatment, without actual knowledge of facts contrary to those stated in the affidavit, is not subject to criminal liability or to civil liability to any person or entity, and is not subject to professional disciplinary action, solely for such reliance if the applicable portions of the form are completed and the grandparent's signature is notarized.
2. The decision of a grandparent, based on a CARETAKER AUTHORIZATION AFFIDAVIT, shall be honored by a health care facility or practitioner, school district, or school official unless the health care facility or practitioner or educational facility or official has actual knowledge that a parent, guardian, or custodian of a child has made a contravening decision to consent to or to refuse medical treatment for the child.
3. The act of a parent, guardian, or custodian of the child to negate, reverse, or otherwise disapprove an action or decision of the grandparent who signed this affidavit constitutes termination of this affidavit. A parent, guardian, or custodian may negate, reverse, or disapprove a grandparent's action or decision only by delivering written notice of negation, reversal, or disapproval to the grandparent and the person acting on the grandparent's action or decision in reliance on this affidavit.

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*Source: H.B. 130 Enrolled Version, 125<sup>th</sup> General Assembly*

**Sec. 3109.66.** The caretaker authorization affidavit that a grandparent described in section 3109.65 of the Revised Code may execute shall be identical in form and content to the following:



to enter a residential treatment program for substance abuse; (2) One of the child's parents is deceased and the other parent, with authority to do so, seeks to execute a power of attorney; or (3) The parent, guardian, or custodian has a well-founded belief that the power of attorney is in the child's best interest.

2. The signatures of the parent, guardian, or custodian of the child and the grandparent designated as the attorney in fact must be notarized by an Ohio notary public.
3. A parent, guardian, or custodian who creates a power of attorney must notify the parent of the child who is not the residential parent and legal custodian of the child unless one of the following circumstances applies: (a) the parent is prohibited from receiving a notice of relocation in accordance with section 3109.051 of the Revised Code of the creation of the power of attorney; (b) the parent's parental rights have been terminated by order of a juvenile court pursuant to Chapter 2151. of the Revised Code; (c) the parent cannot be located with reasonable efforts; (d) both parents are executing the power of attorney. The notice must be sent by certified mail not later than five days after the power of attorney is created and must state the name and address of the person designated as the attorney in fact.
4. A parent, guardian, or custodian who creates a power of attorney must file it with the juvenile court of the county in which the attorney in fact resides, or any other court that has jurisdiction over the child under a previously filed motion or proceeding. The power of attorney must be filed not later than five days after the date it is created and be accompanied by a receipt showing that the notice of creation of the power of attorney was sent to the parent who is not the residential parent and legal custodian by certified mail.
5. A parent, guardian, or custodian who creates a second or subsequent power of attorney regarding a child who is the subject of a prior power of attorney must file the power of attorney with the juvenile court of the county in which the attorney in fact resides or any other court that has jurisdiction over the child under a previously filed motion or proceeding. On filing, the court will schedule a hearing to determine whether the power of attorney is in the child's best interest.
6. This power of attorney does not affect the rights of the child's parents, guardian, or custodian regarding any future proceedings concerning the custody of the child or the allocation of the parental rights and responsibilities for the care of the child and does not give the attorney in fact legal custody of the child.
7. A person or entity that relies on this power of attorney, in good faith, has no obligation to make any further inquiry or investigation.
8. This power of attorney terminates on the occurrence of whichever of the following occurs first: (1) one year elapses following the date the power of attorney is notarized; (2) the power of attorney is revoked in writing by the person who created it; (3) the child ceases to live with the grandparent who is the attorney in fact; (4) the power of attorney is terminated by court order; (5) the death of the child who is the subject of the power of attorney; or (6) the death of the grandparent designated as the attorney in fact.

If this power of attorney terminates other than by the death of the attorney in fact, the grandparent who served as the attorney in fact shall notify, in writing, all of the following:

(a) Any schools, health care providers, or health insurance coverage provider with which the child has been involved through the grandparent;

(b) Any other person or entity that has an ongoing relationship with the child or grandparent such that the other person or entity would reasonably rely on the power of attorney unless notified of the termination;

(c) The court in which the power of attorney was filed after its creation; and

(d) The parent who is not the residential parent and legal custodian of the child who is required to be given notice of its creation. The grandparent shall make the notifications not later than one week after the date the power of attorney terminates.

9. If this power of attorney is terminated by written revocation of the person who created it, or the revocation is regarding a second or subsequent power of attorney, a copy of the revocation must be filed with the court with which that power of attorney was filed.

**Additional information:**

**To the grandparent designated as attorney in fact:**

1. If the child stops living with you, you are required to notify, in writing, any school, health care provider, or health care insurance provider to which you have given this power of attorney. You are also required to notify, in writing, any other person or entity that has an ongoing relationship with you or the child such that the person or entity would reasonably rely on the power of attorney unless notified. The notification must be made not later than one week after the child stops living with you.
2. You must include with the power of attorney the following information:
  - (a) The child's present address, the addresses of the places where the child has lived within the last five years, and the name and present address of each person with whom the child has lived during that period;
  - (b) Whether you have participated as a party, a witness, or in any other capacity in any other litigation, in this state or any other state, that concerned the allocation, between the parents of the same child, of parental rights and responsibilities for the care of the child and the designation of the residential parent and legal custodian of the child or that otherwise concerned the custody of the same child;
  - (c) Whether you have information of any parenting proceeding concerning the child pending in a court of this or any other state;
  - (d) Whether you know of any person who has physical custody of the child or claims to be a parent of the child who is designated the residential parent and legal custodian of the child or to have parenting time rights with respect to the child or to be a person other than a parent of the child who has custody or visitation rights with respect to the child;
  - (e) Whether you previously have been convicted of or pleaded guilty to any criminal offense involving any act that resulted in a child being an abused child or a neglected child or previously have been determined, in a case in which a child has been adjudicated an abused child or a neglected child, to be the perpetrator of the abusive or neglectful act that was the basis of the adjudication.

**To school officials:**

1. Except as provided in section 3313.649 of the Revised Code, this power of attorney, properly completed and notarized, authorizes the child in question to attend school in the district in which the grandparent designated as attorney in fact resides and that grandparent is authorized to provide consent in all school-related matters and to obtain from the school district educational and behavioral information about the child. This power of attorney does not preclude the parent,

- guardian, or custodian of the child from having access to all school records pertinent to the child.
2. The school district may require additional reasonable evidence that the grandparent lives in the school district.
  3. A school district or school official that reasonably and in good faith relies on this power of attorney has no obligation to make any further inquiry or investigation.

To health care providers:

1. A person or entity that acts in good faith reliance on a power of attorney to provide medical, psychological, or dental treatment, without actual knowledge of facts contrary to those stated in the power of attorney, is not subject to criminal liability or to civil liability to any person or entity, and is not subject to professional disciplinary action, solely for such reliance if the power of attorney is completed and the signatures of the parent, guardian, or custodian of the child and the grandparent designated as attorney in fact are notarized.
2. The decision of a grandparent designated as attorney in fact, based on a power of attorney, shall be honored by a health care facility or practitioner, school district, or school official.

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*Source: H.B. 130 Enrolled Version, 125<sup>th</sup> General Assembly*

**Sec. 3109.53.** To create a power of attorney under section 3109.52 of the Revised Code, a parent, guardian, or custodian shall use a form that is identical in form and content to the following: