

Disability and the Law

INTRODUCTION	1
1. PROTECTION OF PERSONAL AND PROPERTY RIGHTS ACT 1988	3
Background	3
Principles and objectives	4
<i>The primary objectives of the Act</i>	4
<i>How is the principle of least restrictive intervention expressed in the Act's provisions?</i>	5
<i>The second primary objective</i>	7
<i>A third primary principle?</i>	7
2. INTERACTING LEGISLATION	11
Introduction	11
The Mental Health (Compulsory Assessment & Treatment) Act	11
Health and Disability Commissioner Act 1994	13
Intellectual Disability (Compulsory Care) Bill	17
<i>Not far enough?</i>	18
<i>Selected aspects of the Bill</i>	18
<i>Summary</i>	19
Alcoholism and Drug Addiction Act 1966	19
3. WHO MAY BE THE SUBJECTS OF APPLICATIONS TO THE COURT?	21
What should lawyers know about people with intellectual disabilities?	21
<i>Some common misconceptions</i>	21
<i>What is the state of current knowledge and evidence?</i>	22
<i>Research evidence on competence of people with intellectual disabilities</i>	26
What should lawyers know about elderly people who may be the subject of proceedings under the Act?	27
Dementia	27
Stroke	29
4. THE PERSONAL WELFARE PROVISIONS OF THE PPPR ACT	31
Who can apply to the court for personal orders?	31
What should an application contain?	31
The court, and counsel's first responsibility: jurisdictional issues	33
Decisions on service and attendance at court	34
Pre-hearing conferences	35
Applications for welfare guardianship orders	35
Expiry and reviews of personal orders	38
Protection of Personal & Property Rules 1988	39
Case A: Straightforward welfare guardian application	39
<i>Service</i>	40
Case B: Welfare guardian application - joint guardianship	41
<i>Review</i>	41
5. THE PROPERTY PROVISIONS OF THE PPPR ACT	42
Property orders and management	42

<i>Some points and pointers</i>	42
<i>Choosing a manager</i>	42
<i>Age</i>	42
<i>Role of manager</i>	42
<i>The schedule</i>	43
<i>Duties of the managers</i>	43
<i>Legal proceedings</i>	43
<i>Gifts and settlements</i>	43
<i>Expenses – s 50</i>	43
<i>Reviews – s 87</i>	44
Applications to trustee corporations (eg Maori Trustee, Public Trustee) – s 32	44
Procedures relating to both property and personal orders - reports – s 76	44
Orders by consent – s 12(5)(d) and s 31(51)(c)	44
Costs	44
Appointment of a barrister or a solicitor by the court – s 65	45
Temporary orders - s 30	45
Case C: Temporary orders sought	45
Appeals – s 82-85	47
Relationship between personal rules and property – s 16	47
Enduring powers of attorney – s 94-108	47
Making a will for someone who lacks testamentary capacity – s 54-55	47
Case D: Making a will – (s 55) – combined with "joint" property manager application/welfare guardian	51
Case E: Choice of lawyer by subject – testamentary disposition	52
6. ENDURING POWERS OF ATTORNEY IN RELATION TO PERSONAL CARE AND WELFARE	53
Concerns about protection of the rights of elderly people	55
7. PRACTICAL ADVICE FOR COUNSEL FOR APPLICANT WHEN COMMENCING THE PPPR ACT PROCESS	59
Launching a PPPR application	59
Role of the lawyer in property cases	59
<i>Benefits/small estates</i>	60
<i>Case F: Non-standard review application</i>	60
<i>Case G: A reasonably straightforward application made by support worker (mental health worker) in respect of a client</i>	63
<i>Case H: Property order application with a bit of a twist – "specified sum"</i>	66
<i>Case I: Property manager application involving family conflict</i>	66
Completion of a s 65 report	67
<i>Investigations</i>	68
<i>Outcome</i>	68
<i>Investigations</i>	69
<i>Conclusions</i>	70
8. ROLES OF OTHER PROFESSIONALS	71
9. PERSONAL VIEWPOINTS	73
Philip Recordon	73

<i>What of the others?</i>	74
<i>The solution</i>	75
Anne Bray	75
APPENDIX 1 - THE HEALTH AND DISABILITY COMMISSIONER (CODE OF HEALTH AND DISABILITY SERVICES CONSUMERS' RIGHTS) REGULATIONS 1996	79
APPENDIX 2 - BRAY A "THE PROTECTION OF PERSONAL AND PROPERTY RIGHTS ACT 1988: PROGRESS FOR PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES?" (1996) 2 BFLJ 51; 64	83
APPENDIX 3 - GATES S "WHY IS IT NECESSARY FOR THE EXPERT WITNESS TO TESTIFY WITHIN THEIR OWN SCIENCE?" (1999) 3 BFLJ 81	93
APPENDIX 4 - DAWSON J "THE ROLE OF LAWYERS IN PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE PPPR ACT" (1995) BFLJ 242	99
APPENDIX 5 - ATKIN WR "THE COURTS, FAMILY CONTROL AND DISABILITY - ASPECTS OF NEW ZEALAND'S PROTECTION OF PERSONAL AND PROPERTY RIGHTS ACT 1988" (1988) 18 VUWLR 345	105
APPENDIX 6 - MISUSE OF ENDURING POWERS OF ATTORNEY, SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE LAW COMMISSION'S REPORT 71, APRIL 2001	127
APPENDIX 7 - SOME RELEVANT CASE LAW	131