

**231E.2 Office of substitute decision maker — findings and intent.**

1. *a.* The general assembly finds that many adults in this state are unable to meet essential requirements to maintain their physical health or to manage essential aspects of their financial resources and are in need of substitute decision-making services. However, a willing and responsible person may not be available to serve as a private substitute decision maker or the adult may not have adequate income or resources to compensate a private substitute decision maker.

*b.* The general assembly further finds that a process should exist to assist individuals in finding alternatives to substitute decision-making services and less intrusive means of assistance before an individual's independence or rights are limited.

*c.* The general assembly further finds that a substitute decision maker may be necessary to finalize a person's affairs after death when there is no willing and appropriate person available to serve as the person's personal representative.

2. *a.* It is, therefore, the intent of the general assembly to establish a state office of substitute decision maker and authorize the establishment of local offices of substitute decision maker to provide substitute decision-making services to adults and their estates after their deaths, when no private substitute decision maker is available.

*b.* It is also the intent of the general assembly that the office of substitute decision maker provide assistance to both public and private substitute decision makers throughout the state in securing necessary services for their wards, principals, clients, and decedents and to assist substitute decision makers, wards, principals, clients, courts, and attorneys in the orderly and expeditious handling of substitute decision-making proceedings.

2005 Acts, ch 175, §131