

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2017
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2161

5 By: Representative D. Whitaker
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO ADOPT THE REVISED UNIFORM FIDUCIARY ACCESS
9 TO DIGITAL ASSETS ACT IN ARKANSAS; AND FOR OTHER
10 PURPOSES.
11

Subtitle

12
13
14 TO ADOPT THE REVISED UNIFORM FIDUCIARY
15 ACCESS TO DIGITAL ASSETS ACT IN ARKANSAS.
16
17

18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
19

20 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 28 is amended to add a new chapter to
21 read as follows:

CHAPTER 28

REVISED UNIFORM FIDUCIARY ACCESS TO DIGITAL ASSETS ACT

28-75-101. Short title.

25
26 This chapter may be cited as the "Revised Uniform Fiduciary Access to
27 Digital Assets Act".
28

28-75-102. Definitions.

As used in this chapter:

31 (1) "Account" means an arrangement under a terms-of-service
32 agreement in which a custodian carries, maintains, processes, receives, or
33 stores a digital asset of the user or provides goods or services to the user.

34 (2) "Agent" means an attorney-in-fact granted authority under a
35 durable or nondurable power of attorney.

36 (3) "Carries" means engages in the transmission of an electronic



1 communication.

2 (4) "Catalogue of electronic communication" means information
3 that identifies each person with which a user has had an electronic
4 communication, the time and date of the communication, and the electronic
5 address of the person.

6 (5) "Content of an electronic communication" means information
7 concerning the substance or meaning of the communication which:

8 (A) Has been sent or received by a user;

9 (B) Is in electronic storage by a custodian providing an
10 electronic-communication service to the public or is carried or maintained by
11 a custodian providing a remote-computing service to the public; and

12 (C) Is not readily accessible to the public.

13 (6) "Court" means the circuit court of the county of residence
14 of the account holder.

15 (7) "Custodian" means a person that carries, maintains,
16 processes, receives, or stores a digital asset of a user.

17 (8) "Designated recipient" means a person chosen by a user using
18 an online tool to administer digital assets of the user.

19 (9) "Digital asset" means an electronic record in which an
20 individual has a right or interest. The term does not include an underlying
21 asset or liability unless the asset or liability is itself an electronic
22 record.

23 (10) "Electronic" means relating to technology having
24 electrical, digital, magnetic, wireless, optical, electromagnetic, or similar
25 capabilities.

26 (11) "Electronic communication" has the same meaning set forth
27 in 18 U.S.C. § 2510(12), as amended.

28 (12) "Electronic-communication service" means a custodian that
29 provides to a user the ability to send or receive an electronic
30 communication.

31 (13) "Fiduciary" means an original, additional, or successor
32 personal representative, guardian of the estate, agent, or trustee.

33 (14) "Guardian of the estate" means a person appointed by a
34 court to manage the estate of a living individual. The term includes a
35 limited guardian and a temporary guardian.

36 (15) "Information" means data, text, images, videos, sounds,

1 codes, computer programs, software, databases, or the like.

2 (16) "Online tool" means an electronic service provided by a
3 custodian that allows the user, in an agreement distinct from the terms-of-
4 service agreement between the custodian and user, to provide directions for
5 disclosure or nondisclosure of digital assets to a third person.

6 (17) "Person" means an individual, estate, business or nonprofit
7 entity, public corporation, government or governmental subdivision, agency,
8 or instrumentality, or other legal entity.

9 (18) "Personal representative" means an executor, administrator,
10 special administrator, or person that performs substantially the same
11 function under law of this state other than this chapter.

12 (19) "Power of attorney" means a record that grants an agent
13 authority to act in the place of a principal.

14 (20) "Principal" means an individual who grants authority to an
15 agent in a power of attorney.

16 (21) "Record" means information that is inscribed on a tangible
17 medium or that is stored in an electronic or other medium and is retrievable
18 in perceivable form.

19 (22) "Remote-computing service" means a custodian that provides
20 to a user computer-processing services or the storage of digital assets by
21 means of an electronic communications system, as defined in 18 U.S.C.
22 Section 2510(14), as amended.

23 (23) "Terms-of-service agreement" means an agreement that
24 controls the relationship between a user and a custodian.

25 (24) "Trustee" means a fiduciary with legal title to property
26 under an agreement or declaration that creates a beneficial interest in
27 another. The term includes a successor trustee.

28 (25) "User" means a person that has an account with a custodian.

29 (26) "Ward" means an individual for whom a guardian of the
30 estate has been appointed. The term includes an individual for whom an
31 application for the appointment of a guardian of the estate is pending.

32 (26) "Will" includes a codicil, testamentary instrument that
33 only appoints an executor, and instrument that revokes or revises a
34 testamentary instrument.

35
36 28-75-103. Applicability.

1 (a) This chapter applies to:

2 (1) a fiduciary acting under a will or power of attorney
3 executed before, on, or after the effective date of this chapter;

4 (2) a personal representative acting for a decedent who died
5 before, on, or after the effective date of this chapter;

6 (3) a guardianship of the estate, proceeding commenced before,
7 on, or after the effective date of this chapter; and

8 (4) a trustee acting under a trust created before, on, or after
9 the effective date of this chapter.

10 (b) This chapter applies to a custodian if the user resides in this
11 state or resided in this state at the time of the user's death.

12 (c) This chapter does not apply to a digital asset of an employer used
13 by an employee in the ordinary course of the employer's business.

14
15 28-75-104. User direction for disclosure of digital assets.

16 (a) A user may use an online tool to direct the custodian to disclose
17 to a designated recipient or not to disclose some or all of the user's
18 digital assets, including the content of electronic communications. If the
19 online tool allows the user to modify or delete a direction at all times, a
20 direction regarding disclosure using an online tool overrides a contrary
21 direction by the user in a will, trust, power of attorney, or other record.

22 (b) If a user has not used an online tool to give direction under
23 subsection (a) or if the custodian has not provided an online tool, the user
24 may allow or prohibit in a will, trust, power of attorney, or other record,
25 disclosure to a fiduciary of some or all of the user's digital assets,
26 including the content of electronic communications sent or received by the
27 user.

28 (c) A user's direction under subsection (a) or (b) overrides a
29 contrary provision in a terms-of-service agreement that does not require the
30 user to act affirmatively and distinctly from the user's assent to the terms
31 of service.

32
33 28-75-105. Terms-of-service agreement.

34 (a) This chapter does not change or impair a right of a custodian or a
35 user under a terms-of-service agreement to access and use digital assets of
36 the user.

1 (b) This chapter does not give a fiduciary any new or expanded rights
2 other than those held by the user for whom, or for whose estate, the
3 fiduciary acts or represents.

4 (c) A fiduciary's access to digital assets may be modified or
5 eliminated by a user, by federal law, or by a terms-of-service agreement if
6 the user has not provided direction under § 28-75-104.

7
8 28-75-106. Procedure for disclosing digital assets.

9 (a) When disclosing digital assets of a user under this chapter, the
10 custodian may at its sole discretion:

11 (1) grant a fiduciary or designated recipient full access to the
12 user's account;

13 (2) grant a fiduciary or designated recipient partial access to
14 the user's account sufficient to perform the tasks with which the fiduciary
15 or designated recipient is charged; or

16 (3) provide a fiduciary or designated recipient a copy in a
17 record of any digital asset that, on the date the custodian received the
18 request for disclosure, the user could have accessed if the user were alive
19 and had full capacity and access to the account.

20 (b) A custodian may assess a reasonable administrative charge for the
21 cost of disclosing digital assets under this chapter.

22 (c) A custodian need not disclose under this chapter a digital asset
23 deleted by a user.

24 (d) If a user directs or a fiduciary requests a custodian to disclose
25 under this chapter some, but not all, of the user's digital assets, the
26 custodian need not disclose the assets if segregation of the assets would
27 impose an undue burden on the custodian. If the custodian believes the
28 direction or request imposes an undue burden, the custodian or fiduciary may
29 seek an order from the court to disclose:

30 (1) a subset limited by date of the user's digital assets;

31 (2) all of the user's digital assets to the fiduciary or
32 designated recipient;

33 (3) none of the user's digital assets; or

34 (4) all of the user's digital assets to the court for review in
35 camera.

36

1 28-75-107. Disclosure of content of electronic communications of
2 deceased user.

3 If a deceased user consented or a court directs disclosure of the
4 contents of electronic communications of the user, the custodian shall
5 disclose to the personal representative of the estate of the user the content
6 of an electronic communication sent or received by the user if the
7 representative gives the custodian:

8 (1) a written request for disclosure in physical or electronic
9 form;

10 (2) a certified copy of the death certificate of the user;

11 (3) a certified copy of Letters Testamentary, Letters of
12 Administration, or a small-estate affidavit or court order;

13 (4) unless the user provided direction using an online tool, a
14 copy of the user's will, trust, power of attorney, or other record evidencing
15 the user's consent to disclosure of the content of electronic communications;
16 and

17 (5) if requested by the custodian:

18 (A) a number, username, address, or other unique
19 subscriber or account identifier assigned by the custodian to identify the
20 user's account;

21 (B) evidence linking the account to the user; or

22 (C) a finding by the court that:

23 (i) the user had a specific account with the
24 custodian, identifiable by the information specified in subparagraph (5)(A);

25 (ii) disclosure of the content of electronic
26 communications of the user would not violate 18 U.S.C. Section 2701 et seq.,
27 47 U.S.C. Section 222, or other applicable law;

28 (iii) unless the user provided direction using an
29 online tool, the user consented to disclosure of the content of electronic
30 communications; or

31 (iv) disclosure of the content of electronic
32 communications of the user is reasonably necessary for administration of the
33 estate.

34
35 28-75-108. Disclosure of other digital assets of deceased user.

36 Unless the user prohibited disclosure of digital assets or the court

1 directs otherwise, a custodian shall disclose to the personal representative
2 of the estate of a deceased user a catalogue of electronic communications
3 sent or received by the user and digital assets, other than the content of
4 electronic communications, of the user, if the representative gives the
5 custodian:

6 (1) a written request for disclosure in physical or electronic
7 form;

8 (2) a certified copy of the death certificate of the user;

9 (3) a certified copy of the Letters Testamentary, Letters of
10 Administration, or a small-estate affidavit or court order; and

11 (4) if requested by the custodian:

12 (A) a number, username, address, or other unique
13 subscriber or account identifier assigned by the custodian to identify the
14 user's account;

15 (B) evidence linking the account to the user;

16 (C) an affidavit stating that disclosure of the user's
17 digital assets is reasonably necessary for administration of the estate; or

18 (D) a finding by the court that:

19 (i) the user had a specific account with the
20 custodian, identifiable by the information specified in subparagraph (4)(A);
21 or

22 (ii) disclosure of the user's digital assets is
23 reasonably necessary for administration of the estate.

24
25 28-75-109. Disclosure of the content of electronic communications of
26 principal.

27 To the extent a power of attorney expressly grants an agent authority
28 over the content of electronic communications sent or received by the
29 principal and unless directed otherwise by the principal or the court, a
30 custodian shall disclose to the agent the content if the agent gives the
31 custodian:

32 (1) a written request for disclosure in physical or electronic
33 form;

34 (2) an original or copy of the power of attorney expressly
35 granting the agent authority over the content of electronic communications of
36 the principal;

1 (3) a certification by the agent, under penalty of perjury, that
2 the power of attorney is in effect; and

3 (4) if requested by the custodian:

4 (A) a number, username, address, or other unique
5 subscriber or account identifier assigned by the custodian to identify the
6 principal's account; or

7 (B) evidence linking the account to the principal.

8
9 28-75-110. Disclosure of other digital assets of principal.

10 Unless otherwise ordered by the court, directed by the principal, or
11 provided by a power of attorney, a custodian shall disclose to an agent with
12 specific authority over digital assets or general authority to act on behalf
13 of a principal a catalogue of electronic communications sent or received by
14 the principal and digital assets, other than the content of electronic
15 communications, of the principal if the agent gives the custodian:

16 (1) a written request for disclosure in physical or electronic
17 form;

18 (2) an original or a copy of the power of attorney that gives
19 the agent specific authority over digital assets or general authority to act
20 on behalf of the principal;

21 (3) a certification by the agent, under penalty of perjury, that
22 the power of attorney is in effect; and

23 (4) if requested by the custodian:

24 (A) a number, username, address, or other unique
25 subscriber or account identifier assigned by the custodian to identify the
26 principal's account; or

27 (B) evidence linking the account to the principal.

28
29 28-75-111. Disclosure of digital assets held in trust when trustee is
30 original user.

31 Unless otherwise ordered by the court or provided in a trust, a
32 custodian shall disclose to a trustee that is an original user of an account
33 any digital asset of the account held in trust, including a catalogue of
34 electronic communications of the trustee and the content of electronic
35 communications.

36

1 28-75-112. Disclosure of contents of electronic communications held in
2 trust when trustee not original user.

3 Unless otherwise ordered by the court, directed by the user, or
4 provided in a trust, a custodian shall disclose to a trustee that is not an
5 original user of an account the content of an electronic communication sent
6 or received by an original or successor user and carried, maintained,
7 processed, received, or stored by the custodian in the account of the trust
8 if the trustee gives the custodian:

9 (1) a written request for disclosure in physical or electronic
10 form;

11 (2) a certified copy of the trust instrument or a certification
12 of the trust under § 28-73-1013 that includes consent to disclosure of the
13 content of electronic communications to the trustee;

14 (3) a certification by the trustee, under penalty of perjury,
15 that the trust exists and the trustee is a currently acting trustee of the
16 trust; and

17 (4) if requested by the custodian:

18 (A) a number, username, address, or other unique
19 subscriber or account identifier assigned by the custodian to identify the
20 trust's account; or

21 (B) evidence linking the account to the trust.

22
23 28-75-113. Disclosure of other digital assets held in trust when
24 trustee not original user.

25 Unless otherwise ordered by the court, directed by the user, or
26 provided in a trust, a custodian shall disclose, to a trustee that is not an
27 original user of an account, a catalogue of electronic communications sent or
28 received by an original or successor user and stored, carried, or maintained
29 by the custodian in an account of the trust and any digital assets, other
30 than the content of electronic communications, in which the trust has a right
31 or interest if the trustee gives the custodian:

32 (1) a written request for disclosure in physical or electronic
33 form;

34 (2) a certified copy of the trust instrument or a certification
35 of the trust under § 28-73-1013;

36 (3) a certification by the trustee, under penalty of perjury,

1 that the trust exists and the trustee is a currently acting trustee of the
2 trust; and

3 (4) if requested by the custodian:

4 (A) a number, username, address, or other unique
5 subscriber or account identifier assigned by the custodian to identify the
6 trust's account; or

7 (B) evidence linking the account to the trust.

8
9 28-75-114. Disclosure of digital assets to guardian of the estate.

10 (a) After an opportunity for a hearing under state guardianship law,
11 the court may grant a guardian of the estate access to the digital assets of
12 a ward.

13 (b) Unless otherwise ordered by the court or directed by the user, a
14 custodian shall disclose to a guardian of the estate the catalogue of
15 electronic communications sent or received by a ward and any digital assets,
16 other than the content of electronic communications, in which the ward has a
17 right or interest if the guardian of the estate gives the custodian:

18 (1) a written request for disclosure in physical or electronic
19 form;

20 (2) a certified copy of the court order that gives the guardian
21 of the estate authority over the digital assets of the ward; and

22 (3) if requested by the custodian:

23 (A) a number, username, address, or other unique
24 subscriber or account identifier assigned by the custodian to identify the
25 account of the ward; or

26 (B) evidence linking the account to the ward.

27 (c) A guardian of the estate with general authority to manage the
28 assets of a ward may request a custodian of the digital assets of the ward to
29 suspend or terminate an account of the ward for good cause. A request made
30 under this section must be accompanied by a certified copy of the court order
31 giving the guardian of the estate authority over the ward's property.

32
33 28-75-115. Fiduciary duty and authority.

34 (a) The legal duties imposed on a fiduciary charged with managing
35 tangible property apply to the management of digital assets, including:

36 (1) the duty of care;

1 (2) the duty of loyalty; and

2 (3) the duty of confidentiality.

3 (b) A fiduciary's authority with respect to a digital asset of a user:

4 (1) except as otherwise provided in § 28-75-104, is subject to
5 the applicable terms of service;

6 (2) is subject to other applicable law, including copyright law;

7 (3) in the case of a fiduciary, is limited by the scope of the
8 fiduciary's duties; and

9 (4) may not be used to impersonate the user.

10 (c) A fiduciary with authority over the property of a decedent, ward,
11 principal, or settlor has the right to access any digital asset in which the
12 decedent, ward, principal, or settlor had a right or interest and that is not
13 held by a custodian or subject to a terms-of-service agreement.

14 (d) A fiduciary acting within the scope of the fiduciary's duties is
15 an authorized user of the property of the decedent, ward, principal, or
16 settlor for the purpose of applicable computer-fraud and
17 unauthorized-computer-access laws.

18 (e) A fiduciary with authority over the tangible, personal property of
19 a decedent, ward, principal, or settlor:

20 (1) has the right to access the property and any digital asset
21 stored in it; and

22 (2) is an authorized user for the purpose of computer-fraud and
23 unauthorized-computer-access laws.

24 (f) A custodian may disclose information in an account to a fiduciary
25 of the user when the information is required to terminate an account used to
26 access digital assets licensed to the user.

27 (g) A fiduciary of a user may request a custodian to terminate the
28 user's account. A request for termination must be in writing, in either
29 physical or electronic form, and accompanied by:

30 (1) if the user is deceased, a certified copy of the death
31 certificate of the user;

32 (2) a certified copy of the Letters Testamentary, Letters of
33 Administration, small-estate affidavit or court order, power of attorney,
34 trust, or court order giving the fiduciary authority over the account; and

35 (3) if requested by the custodian:

36 (A) a number, username, address, or other unique

1 subscriber or account identifier assigned by the custodian to identify the
2 user's account;

3 (B) evidence linking the account to the user; or

4 (C) a finding by the court that the user had a specific
5 account with the custodian, identifiable by the information specified in
6 subparagraph (3)(A).

7
8 28-75-116. Custodian compliance and immunity.

9 (a) Not later than 30 days after receipt of the information required
10 under §§ 28-75-107 - 28-75-115, a custodian shall comply with a request under
11 this chapter from a fiduciary or designated recipient to disclose digital
12 assets or terminate an account. If the custodian fails to comply, the
13 fiduciary or designated recipient may apply to the court for an order
14 directing compliance.

15 (b) An order under subsection (a) directing compliance must contain a
16 finding that compliance is not in violation of 18 U.S.C. Section 2702, as
17 amended.

18 (c) A custodian may notify the user that a request for disclosure or
19 to terminate an account was made under this chapter.

20 (d) A custodian may deny a request under this chapter from a fiduciary
21 or designated recipient for disclosure of digital assets or to terminate an
22 account if the custodian is aware of any lawful access to the account
23 following the receipt of the fiduciary's request.

24 (e) This chapter does not limit a custodian's ability to obtain or
25 require a fiduciary or designated recipient requesting disclosure or
26 termination under this chapter to obtain a court order which:

27 (1) specifies that an account belongs to the ward or principal;

28 (2) specifies that there is sufficient consent from the ward or
29 principal to support the requested disclosure; and

30 (3) contains a finding required by law other than this chapter.

31 (f) A custodian and its officers, employees, and agents are immune
32 from liability for an act or omission done in good faith in compliance with
33 this chapter.

34
35 28-75-117. Uniformity of application and construction.

36 In applying and construing this uniform act, consideration must be

1 given to the need to promote uniformity of the law with respect to its
2 subject matter among states that enact it.

3
4 28-75-118. Relation to the Electronic Signatures and Global National
5 Commerce Act.

6 This chapter modifies, limits, or supersedes the Electronic Signatures
7 in Global and National Commerce Act, 15 U.S.C. Section 7001 et seq., but does
8 not modify, limit, or supersede Section 101(c) of that act, 15 U.S.C.
9 Section 7001(c), or authorize electronic delivery of any of the notices
10 described in Section 103(b) of that act, 15 U.S.C. Section 7003(b).