

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to courts; amending s. 28.345, F.S.;  
 3           specifying that certain exemptions from court-related  
 4           fees and charges apply to certain entities; amending  
 5           s. 744.2008, F.S.; requiring the court to waive any  
 6           court costs or filing fees for certain proceedings  
 7           involving public guardians; amending s. 744.3675,  
 8           F.S.; authorizing a physician assistant or an advanced  
 9           practice registered nurse to perform certain  
 10          examinations and prepare certain reports under certain  
 11          circumstances; providing an effective date.

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 13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 15           Section 1. Section 28.345, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
 16           read:

17           28.345 State access to records; exemption from court-  
 18           related fees and charges.—

19           (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the clerk  
 20           of the circuit court shall, upon request, provide access to  
 21           public records without charge to the state attorney, public  
 22           defender, guardian ad litem, public guardian, attorney ad litem,  
 23           criminal conflict and civil regional counsel, and private court-  
 24           appointed counsel paid by the state, and to authorized staff  
 25           acting on their behalf. The clerk of court may provide the

26 requested public record in an electronic format in lieu of a  
 27 paper format if the requesting entity is capable of accessing  
 28 such public record electronically.

29 (2) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter or  
 30 law to the contrary, judges and those court staff acting on  
 31 behalf of judges, state attorneys, guardians ad litem, public  
 32 guardians, attorneys ad litem, court-appointed private counsel,  
 33 criminal conflict and civil regional counsel, public defenders,  
 34 and state agencies, while acting in their official capacity, are  
 35 exempt from all court-related fees and charges assessed by the  
 36 clerks of the circuit courts.

37 (3) The exemptions from fees or charges provided in this  
 38 section apply only to entities listed in subsections (1) and  
 39 (2), state agencies and state entities, and the party  
 40 represented by the agency or entity.

41 Section 2. Section 744.2008, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 42 to read:

43 744.2008 Costs of public guardian.—

44 (1) All costs of administration, ~~including filing fees,~~  
 45 shall be paid from the budget of the office of public guardian.  
 46 No costs of administration, including filing fees, shall be  
 47 recovered from the assets or the income of the ward.

48 (2) In any proceeding for appointment of a public  
 49 guardian, or in any proceeding involving the estate of a ward  
 50 for whom a public guardian has been appointed guardian, the

51 court shall ~~may~~ waive any court costs or filing fees.

52 Section 3. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section  
53 744.3675, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

54 744.3675 Annual guardianship plan.—Each guardian of the  
55 person must file with the court an annual guardianship plan  
56 which updates information about the condition of the ward. The  
57 annual plan must specify the current needs of the ward and how  
58 those needs are proposed to be met in the coming year.

59 (1) Each plan for an adult ward must, if applicable,  
60 include:

61 (b) Information concerning the medical and mental health  
62 conditions and treatment and rehabilitation needs of the ward,  
63 including:

64 1. A resume of any professional medical treatment given to  
65 the ward during the preceding year.

66 2. The report of a physician who examined the ward no more  
67 than 90 days before the beginning of the applicable reporting  
68 period. If the guardian has requested that a physician complete  
69 the examination and prepare the report and the physician has  
70 delegated that responsibility, the examination may be performed  
71 and the report may be prepared and signed by a physician  
72 assistant acting pursuant to s. 458.347(4)(h) or s.  
73 459.022(4)(g), or by an advanced practice registered nurse  
74 acting pursuant to s. 464.012(3). The report must contain an  
75 evaluation of the ward's condition and a statement of the

76 | current level of capacity of the ward.

77 |       3. The plan for providing medical, mental health, and  
78 | rehabilitative services in the coming year.

79 |       Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.