ARTICLE 4

Local and Foreign Personal Representatives; Ancillary Administration

Editor’s Note

2013 Act No. 100, Section 4, provides as follows:

“SECTION 4. (A) This act [amending Articles 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7] takes effect on January 1, 2014.

“(B) Except as otherwise provided in this act, on the effective date of this act:

“(1) this act applies to any estates of decedents dying thereafter and to all trusts created before, on, or after its effective date;

“(2) the act applies to all judicial proceedings concerning estates of decedents and trusts commenced on or after its effective date;

“(3) this act applies to judicial proceedings concerning estates of decedents and trusts commenced before its effective date unless the court finds that application of a particular provision of this act would substantially interfere with the effective conduct of the judicial proceedings or prejudice the rights of the parties, in which case the particular provision of this act does not apply and the superseded law applies;

“(4) subject to item (5) and subsection (C) of this section, any rule of construction or presumption provided in this act applies to governing instruments executed before the effective date of the act unless there is a clear indication of a contrary intent in the terms of the governing instrument; and

“(5) an act done and any right acquired or accrued before the effective date of the act is not affected by this act. Unless otherwise provided in this act, any right in a trust accrues in accordance with the law in effect on the date of the creation of a trust and a substantive right in the decedent’s estate accrues in accordance with the law in effect on the date of the decedent’s death.

“(C) If a right is acquired, extinguished, or barred upon the expiration of a prescribed period that has commenced to run under any other statute before the effective date of the act, that statute continues to apply to the right even if it has been repealed or superseded.”

CROSS REFERENCES

Transfers not testamentary, see Section 62‑6‑204.

Part 1

Definitions

**SECTION 62‑4‑101.** Definitions.

 In this article [Sections 62‑4‑101 et seq.]:

 (1) “Local administration” means administration by a personal representative appointed in this State pursuant to appointment proceedings described in Article 3 [Sections 62‑3‑101 et seq.].

 (2) “Local personal representative” includes any personal representative appointed in this State pursuant to appointment proceedings described in Article 3 [Sections 62‑3‑101 et seq.] and excludes foreign personal representatives who acquire the power of a local personal representative pursuant to Section 62‑4‑205.

 (3) “Resident creditor” means a person domiciled in, or doing business in, this State who is, or could be, a claimant against an estate of a nonresident decedent.

HISTORY: 1986 Act No. 539, Section 1; 2013 Act No. 100, Section 1, eff January 1, 2014.

REPORTER’S COMMENT

Section 62‑4‑101 defines “local administration” and “local personal representative” in order to distinguish “local” matters from that matter covered by Article 4, the “foreign personal representative” and his administrative acts in South Carolina undertaken on the strength of his “foreign administration,” without his appointment in South Carolina pursuant to Article 3 of this Code. Section 62‑1‑201 includes definitions of “foreign personal representative”, “personal representative”, and “non‑resident decedent”.

CROSS REFERENCES

Definitions of terms for purposes of the South Carolina Probate Code, generally, see Section 62‑1‑201.

RESEARCH REFERENCES

Encyclopedias

S.C. Jur. Wills Section 80, Necessity of Appointment for Administration.

Part 2

Powers of Foreign Personal Representatives

**SECTION 62‑4‑201.** Payment of debt and delivery of property to domiciliary foreign personal representative without local administration.

 At any time after the expiration of sixty days from the death of a nonresident decedent, any person indebted to the estate of the nonresident decedent or having possession or control of personal property, or of an instrument evidencing a debt, obligation, stock, or chose in action belonging to the estate of the nonresident decedent may pay the debt, deliver the personal property, or the instrument evidencing the debt, obligation, stock, or chose in action, to the domiciliary foreign personal representative of the nonresident decedent upon being presented with proof of his appointment and an affidavit made by or on behalf of the representative stating:

 (1) the date of the death of the nonresident decedent;

 (2) that no local administration, or application or petition therefor, is pending in this State;

 (3) that the domiciliary foreign personal representative is entitled to payment or delivery.

HISTORY: 1986 Act No. 539, Section 1; 2013 Act No. 100, Section 1, eff January 1, 2014.

REPORTER’S COMMENT

Sections 62‑4‑201, 62‑4‑202, and 62‑4‑203 must be read, together with Section 62‑4‑206, as providing a means, less cumbersome than those provided by Sections 62‑4‑204 and 62‑4‑205 and by Section 62‑4‑207, for the unification and simplification of the administration of multi‑state estates in the hands of the domiciliary foreign personal representatives of nonresident decedents. These sections allow the domiciliary foreign personal representative to collect estate assets in South Carolina without requiring local appointment (Section 62‑4‑201), while protecting debtors of the estate against double payment (Section 62‑4‑202) and also protecting resident creditors of the estate from nonpayment (Section 62‑4‑203). See Section 62‑5‑431 for a provision similarly allowing the collection of the assets of a nonresident protected person by his domiciliary foreign conservator.

Sections 62‑4‑201 and 62‑4‑202 preserve the domiciliary foreign personal representative’s power to collect estate assets in South Carolina from debtors willing to make voluntary payment on the strength of his foreign appointment, and also preserve the corresponding effect, the full discharge of the debtor, resulting from the payment.

These sections by their terms apply only to estates of nonresident decedents and allow for payment only to the domiciliary, not to any ancillary, foreign personal representative. Presumably, an ancillary personal representative is empowered to collect assets only in the state of his appointment. The debtor’s good faith reliance on the foreign personal representative’s proof of appointment and affidavit, inaccurately showing that the decedent was a nonresident of South Carolina and that the personal representative was appointed as a domiciliary personal representative, should protect the debtor under Section 62‑4‑202. These sections apply even if local administration is actually pending or applied for, as long as the foreign personal representative supplies the documentation detailed in Section 62‑4‑201 and the debtor has no actual notice of the pending local administration. Section 62‑4‑202 requires only good faith of the debtor who receives that documentation; his release then depends solely on his making payment to the foreign personal representative. See Section 62‑4‑206. These sections apply even though interested persons, including estate creditors, are domiciled in, or doing business in, South Carolina. Such creditors are protected under Section 62‑4‑203.

These sections apply to the collection of all debts owed to and tangible and intangible personal property owned by the estate. Section 62‑3‑201(d) refers to the location of tangible personal property and intangible personal property which may be evidenced by an instrument. Transfers of securities are covered by these sections as well as by Sections 35‑7‑10, et seq. the Uniform Act for Simplification of Fiduciary Security Transfers.

Section 62‑4‑201 provides for a waiting period of sixty days from the death of the decedent before payment can be made with the expectation of an immediate discharge of the debtor. Presumably, having made payment before the expiration of the period, a debtor will be discharged at the expiration of the period if he would have been discharged had he then paid, but, for example, not if, in the meantime, a local administration has come to the attention of the debtor.

See Section 12‑16‑1150 for estate tax duties and liabilities imposed on personal representatives.

CROSS REFERENCES

Provision that foreign personal representative submits personally to jurisdiction of courts of this State by receiving payment of money or taking delivery of personal property under this section, see Section 62‑4‑301.

Provision that personal representative must be appointed by court order, must qualify, and must be issued letters, except as otherwise provided in this article, see Section 62‑3‑103.

Library References

Executors and Administrators 7, 519(1).

Westlaw Topic No. 162.

C.J.S. Executors and Administrators Sections 4, 924, 979 to 988.

**SECTION 62‑4‑202.** Payment or delivery discharges.

 Payment or delivery made in good faith on the basis of the proof of authority and affidavit releases the debtor or person having possession of the personal property or of the instrument evidencing a debt, obligation, stock, or chose in action to the same extent as if payment or delivery had been made to a local personal representative.

HISTORY: 1986 Act No. 539, Section 1; 1987 Act No. 171, Section 63; 2013 Act No. 100, Section 1, eff January 1, 2014.

REPORTER’S COMMENT

See Comment to Section 62‑4‑201.

CROSS REFERENCES

Provision that personal representative must be appointed by court order, must qualify, and must be issued letters, except as otherwise provided in this article, see Section 62‑3‑103.

Library References

Executors and Administrators 519(1).

Westlaw Topic No. 162.

C.J.S. Executors and Administrators Section 924.

**SECTION 62‑4‑203.** Resident creditor notice.

 Payment or delivery under Section 62‑4‑201 may not be made if a resident creditor of the nonresident decedent has given written notice to the debtor of the nonresident decedent or the person having possession of the personal property or of the instrument evidencing a debt, obligation, stock, or chose in action belonging to the nonresident decedent that the debt should not be paid nor the property delivered to the domiciliary foreign personal representative.

HISTORY: 1986 Act No. 539, Section 1; 1987 Act No. 171, Section 64; 2013 Act No. 100, Section 1, eff January 1, 2014.

REPORTER’S COMMENT

For the context of Section 62‑4‑203, see comment to Section 62‑4‑201. Section 62‑4‑203 provides a means by which a resident creditor of the decedent can attempt to protect himself from nonpayment of his debt, resulting from assets of the estate being removed from South Carolina by a domiciliary foreign personal representative. The creditor simply notifies the debtors of the decedent not to pay their debts under Sections 62‑4‑201 and 62‑4‑202. The notice must be in writing, thereby excluding constructive notice. Section 62‑4‑203 provides for a mechanism protective of resident creditors, while Section 62‑4‑202 deprives of such protection resident creditors who fail to give notice under Section 62‑4‑203.

CROSS REFERENCES

Provision that personal representative must be appointed by court order, must qualify, and must be issued letters, except as otherwise provided in this article, see Section 62‑3‑103.

Library References

Executors and Administrators 7, 519(1).

Westlaw Topic No. 162.

C.J.S. Executors and Administrators Sections 4, 924, 979 to 988.

**SECTION 62‑4‑204.** Proof of authority; bond.

 If no local administration or application or petition therefor is pending in this State, a domiciliary foreign personal representative may file with a court in this State in a county in which property belonging to the decedent is located, authenticated copies of his appointment and of the will, if any. The filing of a bond shall not be required unless the court in its discretion orders it.

HISTORY: 1986 Act No. 539, Section 1; 2013 Act No. 100, Section 1, eff January 1, 2014.

REPORTER’S COMMENT

Sections 62‑4‑204 and 62‑4‑205 must be read, together with Section 62‑4‑206, as providing a means, additional to those of Sections 62‑4‑201 through 62‑4‑203 and of Section 62‑4‑207, for the unification and simplification of the administration of multi‑state estates, without requiring the local appointment of a personal representative. Predicated on no local administration having been instituted, the domiciliary foreign personal representative, who files with the court the documents required by Section 62‑4‑204, obtains under Section 62‑4‑205 all of the powers of a local personal representative. See Article 3 for the powers of local personal representatives.

Effect of Amendment

The 2013 amendment substituted “appointment and of the will, if any” for “, the will, if any, and of any official bond he has given, which bond shall name the court in this State as co‑obligee on such bond”, and added the second sentence, relating to filing of bond.

CROSS REFERENCES

Provision that foreign personal representative submits personally to jurisdiction of courts of this State by filing authenticated copies of his appointment, see Section 62‑4‑301.

Provision that personal representative must be appointed by court order, must qualify, and must be issued letters, except as otherwise provided in this article, see Section 62‑3‑103.

Library References

Executors and Administrators 517.

Westlaw Topic No. 162.

C.J.S. Executors and Administrators Section 915.

**SECTION 62‑4‑205.** Powers.

 A domiciliary foreign personal representative who has complied with Section 62‑4‑204 may exercise as to assets (including real and personal property) in this State all powers of a local personal representative and may maintain actions and proceedings in this State subject to any conditions imposed upon nonresident parties generally.

HISTORY: 1986 Act No. 539, Section 1; 1990 Act No. 521, Section 80; 2013 Act No. 100, Section 1, eff January 1, 2014.

REPORTER’S COMMENT

See comment to Section 62‑4‑204.

CROSS REFERENCES

Exclusion of foreign personal representatives who acquire power of local personal representative from definition of “local personal representative” for purposes of this article, see Section 62‑4‑101.

Provision that personal representative must be appointed by court order, must qualify, and must be issued letters, except as otherwise provided in this article, see Section 62‑3‑103.

Library References

Executors and Administrators 519 to 526.

Westlaw Topic No. 162.

C.J.S. Executors and Administrators Sections 924 to 935.

NOTES OF DECISIONS

In general 1

1. In general

A foreign administrator may acquire the powers of a local personal representative, including the power to maintain a wrongful death action, only by filing with the South Carolina Probate Court authenticated copies of her appointment and bond. Myelle v. American Cyanamid Co. (C.A.4 (S.C.) 1995) 57 F.3d 411. Death 31(4)

**SECTION 62‑4‑206.** Power of representatives in transition.

 The power of a domiciliary foreign personal representative under Section 62‑4‑201 or 62‑4‑205 shall be exercised only if there is no administration or application therefor pending in this State. An application or petition for local administration of the estate terminates the power of the foreign personal representative to act under Section 62‑4‑205, but the local court may allow the foreign personal representative to exercise limited powers to preserve the estate. No person who, before receiving actual notice of a pending local administration, has changed his position in reliance upon the powers of a foreign personal representative shall be prejudiced by reason of the application or petition for, or grant of, local administration. The local personal representative is subject to all duties and obligations which have accrued by virtue of the exercise of the powers by the foreign personal representative and may be substituted for him in any action or proceedings in this State.

HISTORY: 1986 Act No. 539, Section 1; 2013 Act No. 100, Section 1, eff January 1, 2014.

REPORTER’S COMMENT

Section 62‑4‑206 limits the powers of foreign personal representatives, under both Sections 62‑4‑201, et seq., and 62‑4‑204, et seq., to cases in which no local administration is pending, with provision, however, for court approved exercise of limited powers to preserve the estate, for protection of any person acting in reliance upon these sections and without actual notice of a pending local administration, and for subjection of the local personal representative to the obligations accrued by the foreign personal representative under these sections. See Article 3 for provisions concerning local administration.

Library References

Executors and Administrators 517 to 526.

Westlaw Topic No. 162.

C.J.S. Executors and Administrators Sections 915 to 935.

**SECTION 62‑4‑207.** Ancillary and other local administrations; provisions governing.

 In respect to a nonresident decedent, the provisions of Article 3 [Sections 62‑3‑101 et seq.] govern (1) proceedings, if any, in a court of this State for probate of the will, appointment, removal, supervision, and discharge of the local personal representative, and any other order concerning the estate; and (2) the status, powers, duties, and liabilities of any local personal representative and the rights of claimants, purchasers, distributees, and others in regard to a local administration. The initiation of a proceeding under Article 3 (Sections 62‑3‑101 et seq.) is the appropriate procedure for an ancillary administration relating to the real property of a nonresident decedent located in this State and is an alternative to the procedures available to a foreign personal representative under Sections 62‑4‑201 through 62‑4‑206.

HISTORY: 1986 Act No. 539, Section 1; 2000 Act No. 398, Section 9; 2013 Act No. 100, Section 1, eff January 1, 2014.

REPORTER’S COMMENT

The purpose of this section is to direct attention to Article 3 for sections controlling ancillary, i.e., local administration of estates of nonresident decedents. See in particular Sections 62‑3‑101, 62‑3‑201, 62‑3‑202, 62‑3‑203, 62‑3‑307(a), 62‑3‑308, 62‑3‑611(b), 62‑3‑803 (a), 62‑3‑815, and 62‑3‑816. Section 62‑4‑207 and Article 3 must be read as providing an alternative to the procedures available to a foreign personal representative under Sections 62‑4‑201 through 62‑4‑206.

Effect of Amendment

The 2013 amendment inserted at the end “and is an alternative to the procedures available to a foreign personal representative under Sections 62‑4‑201 through 62‑4‑206”.

Library References

Executors and Administrators 517 to 526.

Westlaw Topic No. 162.

C.J.S. Executors and Administrators Sections 915 to 935.

Part 3

Jurisdiction Over Foreign Personal Representatives

**SECTION 62‑4‑301.** Jurisdiction by act of foreign personal representative.

 A foreign personal representative submits personally to the jurisdiction of the courts of this State in any proceeding relating to the estate by (1) filing authenticated copies of his appointment as provided in Section 62‑4‑204, (2) receiving payment of money or taking delivery of personal property under Section 62‑4‑201, or (3) doing any act as a personal representative in this State which would have given the State jurisdiction over him as an individual. Jurisdiction under (2) is limited to the money or value of personal property collected.

HISTORY: 1986 Act No. 539, Section 1; 2013 Act No. 100, Section 1, eff January 1, 2014.

REPORTER’S COMMENT

Sections 62‑4‑301 and 62‑4‑302 assert the South Carolina courts’ jurisdiction over foreign personal representatives, not appointed in South Carolina pursuant to Article 3. Jurisdiction is asserted in the circumstances, under Section 62‑4‑301, of the foreign personal representative’s acting (1) under Section 62‑4‑204 of this Code, (2) under Section 62‑4‑201 of this Code, or (3) within the state in a manner which would have subjected him, as an individual, to the state’s jurisdiction, and, under Section 62‑4‑302, (4) of the decedent’s having been subject to the courts’ jurisdiction immediately prior to his death. The words “courts of this state” are sufficient under federal legislation to include a federal court having jurisdiction in South Carolina.

A foreign personal representative appointed at the decedent’s domicile has priority for appointment in any local administration. See Section 62‑3‑203(g). Once appointed as local personal representative, he remains subject to the jurisdiction of the appointing court under Section 62‑3‑602.

Library References

Executors and Administrators 517.

Westlaw Topic No. 162.

C.J.S. Executors and Administrators Section 915.

**SECTION 62‑4‑302.** Jurisdiction by act of decedent.

 In addition to jurisdiction conferred by Section 62‑4‑301, a foreign personal representative is subject to the jurisdiction of the courts of this State to the same extent that his decedent was subject to jurisdiction immediately prior to death.

HISTORY: 1986 Act No. 539, Section 1; 2013 Act No. 100, Section 1, eff January 1, 2014.

REPORTER’S COMMENT

For the context of Section 62‑4‑302, see comment to Section 62‑4‑301. Section 62‑4‑302 subjects the foreign personal representative to jurisdiction on the basis of his decedent’s immediate pre‑death condition or activities, whether the decedent was domiciled, doing business, or maintaining his principal place of business in South Carolina (see Section 36‑2‑802 Code) of the 1976 Code or engaged in conduct encompassed in South Carolina’s “long‑arm” statutes (see Sections 36‑2‑803, 15‑5‑130, 15‑5‑140, and 15‑9‑350, et seq.). As to survival of causes of action, see Sections 15‑5‑90, 15‑51‑10, et seq., and 35‑1‑1520 of the 1976 Code.

Uniform Commercial Code Section 36‑2‑801 might be read to subject a personal representative “whether or not a citizen or domiciliary of this State,” including a foreign personal representative, to the jurisdiction of the South Carolina courts. Section 62‑4‑302 settles any doubt as to the foreign personal representative’s immunity from suit.

Section 62‑4‑302 should be read with Sections 15‑5‑130 and 15‑5‑140 as augmenting and simplifying the process available to persons involved in South Carolina in automobile accidents also involving deceased nonresident motorists. Section 62‑4‑302 allows for suit directly against the foreign personal representative.

CROSS REFERENCES

Civil actions for wrongful act causing death, see Sections 15‑51‑10 et seq.

Personal jurisdiction over executors, administrators, or other personal representatives, pursuant to Article 2 of the Uniform Commercial Code, see Sections 36‑2‑801 to 36‑2‑803.

Representative of deceased nonresident motor vehicle operator, see Sections 15‑5‑130, 15‑5‑140.

Service on nonresident motorists, motor carriers, etc., see Sections 15‑9‑350 et seq.

Survival of right of action, see Section 15‑5‑90.

Library References

Executors and Administrators 525.

Westlaw Topic No. 162.

C.J.S. Executors and Administrators Section 933.

**SECTION 62‑4‑303.** Service on foreign personal representative.

 (a) Service of process may be made upon the foreign personal representative by registered or certified mail, addressed to his last reasonably ascertainable address, requesting a return receipt signed by addressee only. Notice by ordinary first class mail is sufficient if registered or certified mail service to the addressee is unavailable. Service may be made upon a foreign personal representative in the manner in which service could have been made under other laws of this State on either the foreign personal representative or his decedent immediately prior to death.

 (b) If service is made upon a foreign personal representative as provided in subsection (a), he shall be allowed thirty days within which to appear or respond.

HISTORY: 1986 Act No. 539, Section 1; 2013 Act No. 100, Section 1, eff January 1, 2014.

REPORTER’S COMMENT

Section 62‑4‑303 provides for service of process upon a foreign personal representative, first, either by registered or by certified mail, with return receipt requested, if available under postal regulations; second, by ordinary first class mail, where registered or certified mail is unavailable; and, third, by any means available under other laws of South Carolina for service on the decedent (or on the foreign personal representative himself) immediately prior to the decedent’s death. For service on the decedent, see Sections 36‑2‑804, et seq., for service of process in support of personal jurisdiction under the “long‑arm” provisions of the Uniform Commercial Code, Sections 36‑2‑801, et seq. See Sections 15‑9‑350, et seq., for substituted service of process in South Carolina on the statutorily designated agents of nonresident motorists, motor carriers, aircraft operators, vessel operators, certain traveling shows, nonresident directors of domestic corporations, nonresident trustees of inter vivos trusts, and nonresident individual fiduciaries.

See Sections 62‑1‑401 through 62‑1‑403 of this Code for the general notice provisions of this Code.

CROSS REFERENCES

Service by publication or out of State, see Sections 15‑9‑710 et seq.

Service on nonresident motorists, motor carriers, etc., see Sections 15‑9‑350 et seq.

Library References

Executors and Administrators 525.

Westlaw Topic No. 162.

C.J.S. Executors and Administrators Section 933.

Part 4

Judgments and Personal Representatives

**SECTION 62‑4‑401.** Effect of adjudication for or against personal representative.

 An adjudication rendered in any jurisdiction in favor of or against any personal representative of the estate is as binding on the local personal representative as if he were a party to the adjudication; provided, however, that notice and the opportunity to defend must be given to the local representative in order that the judgment be collectible.

HISTORY: 1986 Act No. 539, Section 1; 2013 Act No. 100, Section 1, eff January 1, 2014.

REPORTER’S COMMENT

For the determinative effect of domiciliary foreign orders determining testacy or the validity of a will and of domiciliary certificates of the efficacy of a will, see Section 62‑3‑408 and 62‑3‑409.

Library References

Executors and Administrators 524, 525.

Westlaw Topic No. 162.

C.J.S. Executors and Administrators Sections 931 to 933.