

DUTY TO INFORM AND ACCOUNT Texas Probate Code Section 489B

The attorney-in-fact or agent is a fiduciary and has a duty to inform and to account for actions taken pursuant to the power of attorney.

The attorney-in-fact or agent shall timely inform the principal of all actions taken pursuant to the power of attorney. Failure of the attorney-in-fact or agent to inform timely, as to third parties, shall not invalidate any action of the attorney-in-fact or agent.

The attorney-in-fact or agent shall maintain records of each action taken or decision made by the attorney-in-fact or agent.

The principal may demand an accounting by the attorney-in-fact or agent. Unless otherwise directed by the principal, the accounting shall include:

1. the property belonging to the principal that has come to the attorney-in-fact's or agent's knowledge or into the attorney-in-fact's or agent's possession;
2. all actions taken or decisions made by the attorney-in-fact or agent;
3. a complete account of receipts, disbursements, and other actions of the attorney-in-fact or agent, including their source and nature, with receipts of principal and income shown separately;
4. a listing of all property over which the attorney-in-fact or agent has exercised control, with an adequate description of each asset and its current value if known to the attorney-in-fact or agent;
5. the cash balance on hand and the name and location of the depository where the balance is kept;
6. all known liabilities; and,
7. such other information and facts known to the attorney-in-fact or agent as may be necessary to a full and definite understanding of the exact condition of the property belonging to the principal.

Unless directed otherwise by the principal, the attorney-in-fact or agent shall also provide to the principal all documentation regarding the principal's property.

The attorney-in-fact or agent shall maintain all records until delivered to the principal, released by the principal, or discharged by a court.

If the attorney-in-fact or agent fails or refuses to inform the principal, provide documentation, or deliver the accounting within 60 days (or such longer or shorter time that the principal demands or a court may order), the principal may file suite to compel the attorney-in-fact or agent to deliver the accounting, to deliver the assets, or to terminate the power of attorney.

This section shall not limit the right of the principal to terminate the power of attorney or make additional requirements of, or to give additional instructions to the attorney-in-fact or agent.

Wherever in this chapter a principal is given an authority to act, that shall include not only the principal but also any person designated by the principal, a guardian of the estate of the principal, or other personal representative of the principal.

The rights set out in this section and chapter are cumulative of any other rights or remedies the principal may have at common law or other applicable statutes and not in derogation of those rights.