

**BONDS INFORMAL PROBATE**  
**HENNEPIN COUNTY**

MN Stat §524.1-307 gives the Registrar the power to “fix and approve bonds”.

Practical aspects of this power in Hennepin County are that we rarely fix and approve a general **bond** on the informally appointed personal representative(s). The reason being that there is no authority specifically given to discharge the bond once the bond is no longer needed. A general bond has to be paid for as long as the personal representative is empowered to act. The effect is that a full year’s bond premium would have to be paid once the Unsupervised Informal Closing Statement was filed. Most estates are unwilling to pay that bond.

The Registrars did make an arrangement with the primary bonding agencies and they in turn with their sureties to permit the bonding of an informal personal representative when Hennepin County Department of Human Services is the claimant. The bond form specifically references Hennepin County and that the bond may be released with a Determination or Certificate from the Registrar. **Look for this language before submitting the bond to the Registrar for approval.**

A demand for bond by the Hennepin County Department of Human Services in a solvent estate will be approved by the Registrar. Once the claim is satisfied, the county files an Application with the Registrar to release the bond upon the filing of the county’s Satisfaction of Claim. The Registrar issues a determination/certificate to release the bond which is e-mailed to the attorney of record and the county.

**If a demand for bond is required in an informal probate case be sure to specifically request an Informal Unsupervised Bond for the benefit of Hennepin County Human Services.**

The **original** bond must be sent to the Registrar for signature.

**Bonding Companies who know how to do the Informal Bond for Hennepin County Department of Human Services:**

The Patrick J. Thomas Agency  
625 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South  
Suite 410  
Minneapolis MN 55402

Newton Bonding Company  
5620 Memorial Avenue North  
Suite E  
Stillwater MN 55082