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Shelby Cnty Judge of Probate, AL
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IN THE PROBATE COURT OF SHELBY COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE

MARTHA ALICE HAND,

An incapacitated person

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CASE NO. PR-2023-000364

ORDER

This cause came before the Court on October 28, 2025 for hearing on the Petition For Final Settlement filed on September 4, 2025 by Henry Fillingim as Conservator for Martha Alice Hand and on the Unopposed Motion To Appoint A New Guardian And Conservator filed on October 24, 2025 by Nicole Davis Edwards, as guardian ad litem for Martha Alice Hand. Notice was given as required by law. Present in open court for the hearing were: Henry Fillingim (the "Conservator" and "Guardian"), along with James C. Pino, Esq., his attorney of record; Martha Alice Hand (the "Respondent"), who appeared pro se; Alice Kathan Fillingim ("Kathan"), who appeared pro se; and Nicole Davis Edwards, Esq., the court appointed guardian ad litem.

The Conservator notified the Court earlier in the year that he was exploring the possibility of changing bonding companies due to the cost of the bond premium. He subsequently filed a new bond and has filed this Petition For Final Settlement for the purpose of having U.S. Specialty Insurance Company, his previous bonding company discharged. The Petition covers the actions of the Conservator for the period of June 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 (the effective date of the new bond with Colonial Surety Company).

Henry Fillingim has diligently served as both Guardian and Conservator for the Respondent, but as this matter has progressed and a routine has been established, it appears that it is now appropriate that these roles be transitioned to others. The guardian ad litem's unopposed motion for a change in the named Guardian and Conservator requests that Kathan Fillingim, who

has moved into the home with the Respondent and assists her with medication administration and the management of her home, as well as transporting her to and from doctor's visits and other appointments be named as Successor Guardian; and that Nicole Edwards, an attorney in good standing and the current guardian ad litem, be named as Successor Conservator. The guardian ad litem reported and the other parties agreed that in order to recover estate property lost and monetary damages suffered by the Respondent, it may become necessary to proceed with litigation involving a family member and all are in agreement that it is best at this time that a third party bearing no relation to the Respondent serve as Conservator so that decisions in that regard may be made that are solely in the best interest of the Respondent.

Based upon the foregoing it is, **ORDERED, ADJUDGED, and DECREED** as follows:

1. The Final Settlement of the Conservator, Henry Fillingim, for the period of June 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025 is hereby approved and allowed as filed by the Conservator.
2. The Final Settlement was made for the purpose of discharging the Conservator's prior surety, U.S. Specialty Insurance Company, as the Conservator has posted a new bond with Colonial Surety Company, which is good and sufficient surety given the assets of the estate which have been reported to the Court.
3. U.S. Specialty Insurance Company is due to be and hereby is discharged from further duty and liability as surety for Henry Fillingim as Conservator for the Respondent.
4. The Court accepts the resignation of Henry Fillingim as Guardian and Conservator and revokes the Letters of Guardianship and Conservatorship issued to him.
5. The Court appoints ALICE KATHAN FILLINGIM as Successor Guardian over the said MARTHA ALICE HAND, and said Guardian is conferred all powers and duties under Ala. Code §26-2A-108 (1975, as amended), and as otherwise provided by law.
6. NICOLE DAVIS EDWARDS is duly qualified and is hereby appointed Successor Conservator over the estate of MARTHA ALICE HAND, and is conferred all powers and duties under Ala. Code §26-2A-152 (1975, as amended), and as otherwise provided by law. Letters of Conservatorship shall be issued upon the posting of good and sufficient surety



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in the amount of \$1,421,172.00.

7. HENRY FILLINGIM shall prepare a Final Settlement of his actions as Conservator for the period of July 1, 2025 through October 31, 2025 within forty-five days of the entry of this Order.
8. Costs of court, including a guardian ad litem fee, are taxed to the estate of Martha Alice Hand.

DONE and ORDERED this the 30th day of October, 2025.

Allison S. Boyd
ALLISON S. BOYD
Judge of Probate

cc: James C. Pino, Esq.
Martha Alice Hand
Nicole Davis Edwards, Esq.
Amanda Dotson
Alice Kathan Fillingim