**§7003. Definitions**

As used in this chapter, unless the context indicates otherwise, the following terms have the following meanings. [PL 1983, c. 459, §7 (NEW).]

**1. Custodian.**  "Custodian" means the person having care and custody over the individual seeking sterilization or the individual for whom sterilization is sought.

[PL 1983, c. 459, §7 (NEW).]

**2. Disinterested expert.**  "Disinterested expert" means an appropriately licensed or certified professional not associated with an institution serving the person for whom sterilization is being sought and not personally related to the petitioner.

[PL 1983, c. 459, §7 (NEW).]

**3. Guardian.**  "Guardian" means a person who has qualified as a guardian of a minor or incapacitated person pursuant to testamentary or court appointment, but excludes one who is merely a guardian ad litem.

[PL 1983, c. 459, §7 (NEW).]

**4. Informed consent.**  "Informed consent" means consent that is:

A. Based upon an actual understanding by the person to be sterilized of the nature of sterilization, its potentially permanent consequences, all alternative methods of contraception and all reasonably foreseeable risks and benefits of sterilization; and [PL 1983, c. 459, §7 (NEW).]

B. Wholly voluntary and free from express or implied coercion. [PL 1983, c. 459, §7 (NEW).]

[PL 1983, c. 459, §7 (NEW).]

**5. Parent.**  "Parent" means a natural or adoptive mother or father of a person.

[PL 1983, c. 459, §7 (NEW).]

**6. Physician.**  "Physician" means any person licensed to practice medicine under Title 32, chapter 48, subchapter II, or under Title 32, chapter 36, subchapters II and IV.

[PL 1983, c. 459, §7 (NEW).]

**7. Psychiatrist.**  "Psychiatrist" means a physician licensed to practice medicine under Title 32, chapter 48, subchapter II, who specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders.

[PL 1983, c. 459, §7 (NEW).]

**8. Psychologist.**  "Psychologist" means any person licensed to practice psychology under Title 32, chapter 56, subchapter III.

[PL 1983, c. 459, §7 (NEW).]

**9. Sterilization.**  "Sterilization" means a medical or surgical procedure, the purpose of which is to render an individual permanently incapable of procreation. Sterilization does not refer to procedures which must be performed for distinct and urgent medical reasons and which have the unavoidable secondary effect of rendering the individual infertile.

[PL 1983, c. 459, §7 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1983, c. 459, §7 (NEW).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

*All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the Second Regular Session of the 131st Maine Legislature and is current through January 1, 2025
. The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.*

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.