

I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
BILL STATUS

BILL NO.	SPONSOR	TITLE	DATE INTRODUCED	DATE REFERRED	CMTE REFERRED	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	FISCAL NOTES	NOTES
112-36 (COR)	Therese M. Terlaje Telo T. Taitague Joanne Brown Tina Rose Muña Barnes Joe S. San Agustin V. Anthony Ada Telena Cruz Nelson Christopher M. Duenas Clynton E. Ridgell Amanda L. Shelton Jose "Pedo" Terlaje Sabina Flores Perez	AN ACT TO <i>ADD</i> A NEW CHAPTER 10 TO DIVISION 1, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED; TO <i>ADD</i> A NEW § 42A101(i)(20) TO CHAPTER 42A OF DIVISION 3, TITLE 7, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED; TO <i>AMEND</i> § 42A101(j) OF CHAPTER 42A, DIVISION 3, TITLE 7, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED; AND, TO <i>REPEAL</i> CHAPTER 10 OF DIVISION 1, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED; ALL RELATIVE TO MEDICAL MALPRACTICE IN THE TERRITORY OF GUAM.	4/12/21 9:23 a.m.						

I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN
2021 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 112-36 (COR)

Introduced by:

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Telo T. Taitague *[Signature]*
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AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW CHAPTER 10 TO DIVISION 1, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED; TO *ADD* A NEW § 42A101(i)(20) TO CHAPTER 42A OF DIVISION 3, TITLE 7, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED; TO *AMEND* § 42A101(j) OF CHAPTER 42A, DIVISION 3, TITLE 7, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED; AND, TO *REPEAL* CHAPTER 10 OF DIVISION 1, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED; ALL RELATIVE TO MEDICAL MALPRACTICE IN THE TERRITORY OF GUAM.

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

2 Section 1. A new Chapter 10 is *added* to Division 1, Title 10, Guam Code
3 Annotated, to read:

4 “CHAPTER 10

5 MEDICAL MALPRACTICE PRE-TRIAL SCREENING ACT.

6

- 1 § 10100. Title.
- 2 § 10101. Legislative Statement.
- 3 § 10102. Definitions.
- 4 § 10103. Mandatory Medical Malpractice Pre-Trial Screening.
- 5 § 10104. Standard of Care.
- 6 § 10105. Medical Malpractice Pre-Trial Screening.
- 7 § 10106. Application of Guam International Arbitration Law; Decision shall
- 8 be Final and Binding.
- 9 § 10107. Mediation.
- 10 § 10108. Applicability to Government of Guam and Its Agencies.
- 11 § 10109. Applicability to Small Claims.
- 12 § 10110. Effect of Chapter.
- 13 § 10111. This Chapter to Prevail.

14
15 § 10100. Title. This Chapter may be cited as the Medical Malpractice Pre-
16 Trial Screening Act.

17 § 10101. Legislative Statement. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that P.L. 21-
18 43, also known as the Medical Malpractice Mandatory Arbitration Act, raises the
19 costs of medical malpractice litigation to prohibitive amounts. Such financial
20 barriers can prevent those who have suffered medical malpractice injuries from
21 seeking justice and reparations.

22 However, *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* also recognizes the unique medical climate
23 on Guam, where there has always been a shortage of medical practitioners. It is not
24 our intent to drive these numbers lower, but to find a fair and balanced solution for
25 all parties involved.

26 The history of medical malpractice legislation on Guam is lengthy, originating
27 with Bill No. 441 in 1975, also known as the Malpractice Claims Mandatory

1 Screening and Mandatory Arbitration Act. Bill No. 441 was found unconstitutional
2 and struck down in the 1984 court case Awa v. Guam Memorial Hospital Authority,
3 finding "it impossible to construe the Act so as to give effect to its contradictory and
4 incomplete provisions." In 1991, the Committee on Health, Ecology, and Welfare
5 found that the medical malpractice problem had reached crisis levels in recent years.
6 In an effort to lower prohibitive medical malpractice insurance premiums, Bill No.
7 325 was introduced by the 21st Guam Legislature, which then became the Medical
8 Malpractice Mandatory Arbitration Act that stands today.

9 The goal of any legislation addressing medical malpractice claims should be
10 as follows: (1) to prevent the filing in court of actions against healthcare providers
11 for liability in situations where the facts do not permit a reasonable judgement of
12 malpractice; and (2) to make fair and impartial the proceeding of such claims that
13 are, or reasonably may be, well-founded.

14 It is, therefore, the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to find and enact such
15 legislation.

16 **§ 10102. Definitions.** For the purposes of this Chapter:

17 (a) *Arbitration* means any arbitration pursuant to the Guam International
18 Arbitration Law (Chapter 42A, Division 3, Title 7, of the Guam Code Annotated).

19 (b) *Arbitral tribunal* means a sole arbitrator or a panel of arbitrators selected
20 pursuant to the Guam International Arbitration Law.

21 (c) *Claimant* means the patient, his relatives, his heirs-at-law or personal
22 representative pursuing a claim, or any third party or other party pursuing a claim
23 against a health professional or healthcare provider.

24 (d) *Defendant* means the health professional or healthcare provider defending
25 a claim pursuant to this Chapter filed by a claimant.

1 (e) Malpractice means any tort based on healthcare or professional services
2 rendered or which should have been rendered by a healthcare provider or a
3 healthcare institution to a patient.

4 (e) Healthcare Provider is a person licensed to practice any branch of the
5 healing arts including but not limited to, optometry, nursing, chiropractic, dentistry,
6 medicine and surgery, physician assistants, podiatry, psychology, osteopathic
7 pharmacy, physical therapy, acupuncture, speech language pathology, audiology,
8 respiratory therapy, nutritionist/clinical dietician, cosmetology, and veterinary
9 medicine, a licensed medical care facility and all officers, employees or agents
10 thereof acting in the course and scope of such person's employment or agency.

11 **§ 10103. Mandatory Medical Malpractice Pre-Trial Screening.**

12 Any claim for damages for personal injury or death on account of alleged
13 medical malpractice of a healthcare provider shall be submitted to medical
14 malpractice pre-trial screening pursuant to the terms of this chapter.

15 **§ 10104. Standard of Care.**

16 The prevailing standard of duty, practice, or care by a reasonable physician in
17 the same field practicing medicine in the community at the time of the alleged
18 malpractice shall be the standard applied in the pre-trial screening.

19 **§ 10105. Medical Malpractice Pre-Trial Screening.**

20 Immediately following receipt of a complaint involving medical malpractice,
21 the Superior Court of Guam or the District Court of Guam (Court) shall seal the case
22 and refer the matter to a Magistrate Judge for Pre-Trial Screening.

23 Within twenty (20) days after service of a Summons and Complaint, the
24 defendant(s) shall file an Answer and serve it upon the plaintiff(s) or their attorney
25 The Answer shall identify any defenses then known to the defendant(s). If a
26 defendant fails to file an answer, then the plaintiff or plaintiffs may proceed in
27 default against such defendant.

1 A Pre-trial Screening shall be conducted promptly upon notice in writing to
2 all parties and their counsel. The Pre-Trial Screening shall be held *in camera*.
3 Testimony of witnesses may be taken remotely by telephone, videoconference or
4 any other electronic means. Findings of fact and decisions made by Guam health
5 licensing boards on the same subject of the complaint may be considered by the
6 Magistrate Judge.

7 The Magistrate Judge shall decide, after consideration of medical records and
8 medical care facility records, contentions of the parties, examination of x-rays, test
9 results and treatises, whether:

10 (1) The evidence supports the conclusion that the defendant or defendants
11 failed to comply with the appropriate standard of care;

12 (2) The evidence does not support the conclusion that the defendant or
13 defendants failed to meet the applicable standard of care;

14 (3) There is a material issue of fact, not requiring expert opinion, bearing on
15 liability for consideration by the Court or jury, which issue of fact shall be identified
16 in the opinion;

17 (4) The conduct complained of was or was not a factor in the resultant
18 damages.

19 If the Magistrate Judge finds that the evidence supports the conclusion that
20 the defendant(s) failed to comply with the appropriate standard of care and that the
21 conduct complained of was a factor in causing damages to plaintiff(s), the Magistrate
22 Judge shall proceed to set a monetary settlement value on the claim, distinguishing
23 between economic and noneconomic damages.

24 The opinion reached by the Magistrate Judge shall remain sealed for thirty
25 (30) days; however, the Court may order the opinion sealed temporarily or
26 permanently upon agreement by the parties if a trial is not pursued.

1 Either party may pursue their right to a jury or a non-jury trial within 30 days
2 after the Magistrate renders its opinion by notifying the court of the party's intent to
3 proceed to trial.

4 The opinion and findings of the Magistrate Judge shall be admissible as
5 evidence in the pending Superior Court action brought by the claimant, but such an
6 opinion shall not be conclusive and can be refuted given admissible conflicting
7 evidence.

8 **§ 10106. Application of Guam International Arbitration Law; Decision**
9 **shall be Final and Binding.**

10 Parties may, at any time make a motion to the Magistrate Judge to hold
11 proceedings in abeyance upon mutual consent and pursuant to any agreed upon terms
12 and conditions, while the parties submit their dispute to arbitration pursuant to the
13 Guam International Arbitration Law provided for in Chapter 42A, Division 3, Title
14 7, of the Guam Code Annotated. The decision of an arbitral tribunal involving a
15 medical malpractice dispute submitted in accordance to the Guam International
16 Arbitration Law shall be final and binding.

17 **§ 10107. Mediation.**

18 Parties may, at any time make a motion to the Magistrate Judge to hold
19 proceedings in abeyance upon mutual consent and pursuant to any agreed upon terms
20 and conditions, while the parties submit their dispute to Mediation pursuant to the
21 provisions of Chapter 43A, Title 7, of the Guam Code Annotated.

22 **§ 10108. Applicability to Government of Guam and Its Agencies.**

23 Claims against the Government of Guam and its agencies are governed by the
24 Government Claims Act. Thus, this chapter does not apply to claims against the
25 Guam Memorial Hospital Authority or other healthcare institutions established by
26 the Government of Guam.

27 **§ 10109. Applicability to Small Claims.**

1 Notwithstanding 7 GCA, Chapter 4, Article 2, §4202, a claim against any
2 defendant for \$20,000.00 or less, or any subsequently amended Small Claims
3 Statutory limit, shall be exempt from this Chapter if filed with the Small Claims
4 Division. The Small Claims Division shall be authorized to handle any claim up to
5 \$20,000 upon consent of the parties.

6 **§ 10110. Effect of Chapter.**

7 This chapter may apply to any claim that accrues before the date that the
8 chapter becomes law, at the election of any party.

9 **§ 10111. This Chapter to Prevail.**

10 The provisions of Chapter 32 of Title 5, Guam Code Annotated, entitled,
11 Deceptive Trade Practices - Consumer Protection Act, shall not be applicable to this
12 chapter and to the extent any of the provisions of this chapter are inconsistent or
13 conflict with the provisions of the Deceptive Trade Practices - Consumer Protection
14 Act or any other provision of law, the terms of this chapter shall prevail and control.”

15 **Section 2.** A new § 42A101(i)(20) is *added* to Chapter 42A of Division 3,
16 Title 7, Guam Code Annotated, to read:

17 “(20) Medical Malpractice.”

18 **Section 3.** § 42A101(j) of Chapter 42A, Division 3, Title 7, Guam Code
19 Annotated, is *amended* to read:

20 “(j) This Chapter 42A shall not affect any other law of Guam by virtue of
21 which certain disputes may not be submitted to arbitration or may be submitted to
22 arbitration only according to provisions other than those of this Chapter 42A
23 including, but not limited to, arbitrations conducted pursuant to 10 GCA §§ 10100-
24 10147.”

25 **Section 4.** Chapter 10 of Division 1, Title 10, Guam Code Annotated, is
26 *repealed*:

27 **“CHAPTER 10**

1 ~~MEDICAL MALPRACTICE—MANDATORY ARBITRATION~~

2 ~~§ 10100. Title.~~

3 ~~§ 10101. Definitions.~~

4 ~~§ 10102. Mandatory Arbitration.~~

5 ~~§ 10103. Initiation of Arbitration.~~

6 ~~§ 10104. Response to Demand.~~

7 ~~§ 10105. Applicability of Statute of Limitations.~~

8 ~~§ 10106. Standard of Care.~~

9 ~~§ 10107. Administration of Arbitration.~~

10 ~~§ 10108. Selection of Arbitrators~~

11 ~~§ 10109. Challenge for Bias.~~

12 ~~§ 10110. Rules of Arbitration.~~

13 ~~§ 10111. Multiple Petitioners and Multiple Respondents.~~

14 ~~§ 10112. Offer of Reparation.~~

15 ~~§ 10113. Appointment of Guardian Ad Litem.~~

16 ~~§ 10114. Stay of Proceedings When Suit is Filed.~~

17 ~~§ 10115. Failure to Arbitrate under this Chapter.~~

18 ~~§ 10116. Service of Documents upon Arbitrators; Ex Parte Contract.~~

19 ~~§ 10117. Witnesses before Arbitrators.~~

20 ~~§ 10118. Evidence and Testimony.~~

21 ~~§ 10119. Identification of Expert Witnesses.~~

22 ~~§ 10120. Identification of Witnesses and Documents.~~

23 ~~§ 10121. Additional Discovery.~~

24 ~~§ 10122. Time and Place of Arbitration Hearing.~~

25 ~~§ 10123. Arbitration Briefs.~~

26 ~~§ 10124. Representation by Counsel.~~

27 ~~§ 10125. Attendance at Hearings.~~

1 ~~§ 10126. Oaths~~
2 ~~§ 10127. Arbitration in the Absence of a Party.~~
3 ~~§ 10128. Adjournments.~~
4 ~~§ 10129. Waiver of Statutory Rights.~~
5 ~~§ 10130. Fees and Costs of Arbitration.~~
6 ~~§ 10131. Damages.~~
7 ~~§ 10132. Timely Award.~~
8 ~~§ 10133. Award of Arbitrators.~~
9 ~~§ 10134. Delivery of Award to Parties.~~
10 ~~§ 10135. Confirmation of Award.~~
11 ~~§ 10136. Vacation of Arbitration Award.~~
12 ~~§ 10137. Modification of Award.~~
13 ~~§ 10138. Notice of Motion to Vacate or Modify.~~
14 ~~§ 10139. Notice of Appeal and Request for Trial de Novo.~~
15 ~~§ 10140. Procedures at Trial de Novo~~
16 ~~§ 10141. Scheduling of the Trial de Novo.~~
17 ~~§ 10142. The Prevailing Party in the Trial de Novo; Costs.~~
18 ~~§ 10143. Sanction for Failing to Prevail in the Trial de Novo.~~
19 ~~§ 10144. Applicability to Government of Guam and its Agencies.~~
20 ~~§ 10145. Prospective Effect of Chapter.~~
21 ~~§ 10146. This Chapter to Prevail.~~
22 ~~§ 10147. Severability Clause.~~
23
24 ~~§ 10100. Title. This Chapter may be cited as the Medical Malpractice~~
25 ~~Mandatory Arbitration Act.~~
26 ~~§ 10101. Definitions. As used in this chapter:~~

1 ~~(a) Association means the American Arbitration Association or other~~
2 ~~entity organized to arbitrate disputes pursuant to this Chapter.~~

3 ~~(b) Health professional means any person licensed or certified to~~
4 ~~practice the healing arts within the territory of Guam.~~

5 ~~(c) Health care institution means any health care facility, health~~
6 ~~maintenance organization or independent practice association operated~~
7 ~~primarily to provide medical services.~~

8 ~~(d) Malpractice means any tort or breach of contract based on health~~
9 ~~care or professional services rendered or which should have been rendered by~~
10 ~~a health professional or a health care institution to a patient.~~

11 ~~(e) Petitioner means the patient, his relatives, his heirs at law or~~
12 ~~personal representative pursuing a claim in arbitration, or any third party or~~
13 ~~other party pursuing a claim in arbitration, against a health professional or~~
14 ~~health care provider.~~

15 ~~(f) Respondent means the health professional or health care provider~~
16 ~~defending a claim in arbitration filed by a petitioner.~~

17 ~~§ 10102. Mandatory Arbitration. Any claim that accrues or is being pursued~~
18 ~~in the territory of Guam, whether in tort, contract, or otherwise, shall be submitted~~
19 ~~to mandatory arbitration pursuant to the terms of this Chapter if it is a controversy~~
20 ~~between the patient, his relatives, his heirs at law or personal representative or any~~
21 ~~third party or other party, and the health professional or health care institution, or~~
22 ~~their employees or agents, and is based on malpractice, tort, contract, strict liability,~~
23 ~~or any other alleged violation of a legal duty incident to the acts of the health~~
24 ~~professional or health care institution, or incident to services rendered or to be~~
25 ~~rendered by the health professional or health care institution.~~

26 ~~§ 10103. Initiation of Arbitration. Arbitration is initiated by a petitioner or~~
27 ~~petitioners serving a written demand for arbitration upon a respondent or~~

1 respondents in the same manner provided by law for the service of summons in the
2 Superior Court of Guam; except that the petitioner or his agent may serve the
3 demand without the necessity of it being served by a Marshal of the Superior Court
4 of Guam. The demand for arbitration shall not be filed in the Superior Court of
5 Guam, and arbitration shall not be filed in the Superior Court of Guam, unless the
6 petitioner or petitioners require the appointment of a Guardian Ad Litem, as
7 provided for in § 10113 of this Chapter. The demand for arbitration shall be filed
8 with the Association. The demand for arbitration shall state the name and address of
9 the petitioner or petitioners, identify the respondent or respondents, and shall outline
10 the factual basis of the claim and the alleged acts of negligence or wrongdoing of
11 the respondent or respondents.

12 ~~§ 10104. Response to Demand.~~ Within twenty (20) days after service of a
13 demand for arbitration, the respondent or respondents shall file a response to the
14 demand for arbitration and serve it upon the petitioner or petitioners, or their
15 attorney. The response shall identify any defenses then known to the respondent or
16 respondents. If a respondent fails to file a response, then the petitioner or petitioners
17 may proceed in default to appoint an arbitration panel pursuant to § 10108 of this
18 Chapter.

19 ~~§ 10105. Applicability of Statute of Limitations.~~ A claim shall be waived
20 and forever barred as against a respondent if on the date the demand is served the
21 applicable statute of limitations would bar the claim.

22 ~~§ 10106. Standard of Care.~~ The prevailing standard of duty, practice, or care
23 by a reasonable physician in the same field practicing medicine in the community at
24 the time of the alleged malpractice shall be the standard applied in the arbitration.

25 ~~§ 10107. Administration of Arbitration.~~ The Association shall administer a
26 proceeding filed under this Chapter. The administrative expense shall be as agreed
27 to by the parties and the Association, or as may be provided by the Association. The

1 administrative costs shall be equally shared by the parties subject to an award of
2 costs by the panel as provided in § 10130 herein.

3 ~~§ 10108. Selection of Arbitrators. An arbitration under this Chapter shall be~~
4 ~~heard by a panel of three (3) arbitrators. The chairperson shall be decided by the~~
5 ~~three (3) panel members and shall have jurisdiction over pre-hearing procedures.~~
6 ~~The three (3) panel members shall include an attorney, a physician, preferably but~~
7 ~~not necessarily from the respondent's medical specialty, and the third shall be a~~
8 ~~person who is neither a doctor, lawyer, or representative of a health care institution~~
9 ~~or insurance company. A minimum of two (2) of the three (3) panel members shall~~
10 ~~be residents of Guam.~~

11 (a) ~~Except as otherwise provided in subsection (d), arbitrator candidates~~
12 ~~shall be selected pursuant to the rules and procedures of the Association from~~
13 ~~a pool of candidates generated by the Association. The rules and procedures~~
14 ~~of the Association pertaining to a selection of arbitrators under this chapter~~
15 ~~shall require that the Association send simultaneously to each party an~~
16 ~~identical list of five (5) arbitrator candidates in each of the three (3) categories~~
17 ~~together with a brief biographical statement on each candidate. A party may~~
18 ~~strike from the list any name which is unacceptable and shall number the~~
19 ~~remaining names in order of preference. When the lists are returned to the~~
20 ~~Association they shall be compared and the first mutually agreeable candidate~~
21 ~~in each category shall be invited to serve.~~

22 (b) ~~Where no mutually agreed upon arbitrator is selected for any~~
23 ~~category, a second list of that category shall be sent pursuant to subsection (a).~~

24 (c) ~~If a complete panel is not selected by mutual agreement of the~~
25 ~~parties pursuant to subsections (a) and (b) then under the applicable rules and~~
26 ~~procedures of the Association, the Association shall appoint the remainder of~~
27 ~~the panel on whom agreement has not been reached by the parties. The~~

1 ~~appointment by the Association shall be subject to challenge by any party for~~
2 ~~cause which challenge may allege facts to establish that unusual community~~
3 ~~or professional pressures will unreasonably influence the objectivity of the~~
4 ~~panelists. A request to strike an arbitrator for cause shall be determined by the~~
5 ~~regional director or comparable officer of the Association.~~

6 ~~(d) The parties shall not be restricted to the arbitrator candidates~~
7 ~~submitted for consideration. If all parties mutually agree upon a panelist~~
8 ~~within a designated category, the panelist shall be invited to serve.~~

9 ~~**§ 10109. Challenge for Bias.** The Association shall make an initial screening~~
10 ~~for bias as may be appropriate and shall require a candidate for a particular case to~~
11 ~~complete a current personal disclosure statement under oath. In addition to other~~
12 ~~relevant information this statement shall disclose any personal acquaintance with~~
13 ~~any of the parties or their counsel and the nature of such acquaintance. If this~~
14 ~~statement reveals facts which suggest the possibility of partiality, the Association~~
15 ~~shall communicate those facts to the parties if the panelist is proposed by the~~
16 ~~arbitration association.~~

17 ~~(a) Any party may propound reasonable questions to an arbitrator~~
18 ~~candidate if such questions are propounded within ten (10) days of the receipt~~
19 ~~of the candidate's name. Such questions shall be propounded through the~~
20 ~~Association and the candidate shall respond to the Association promptly.~~

21 ~~(b) A party shall not communicate with a candidate directly or~~
22 ~~indirectly except through the Association at any time after the filing of the~~
23 ~~demand for arbitration. Any candidate who is aware of such communication~~
24 ~~shall immediately notify the Association.~~

25 ~~**§ 10110. Rules of Arbitration.** The arbitration proceeding shall be subject to~~
26 ~~rules promulgated by the Association in conformance with this chapter.~~

1 ~~§ 10111. Multiple Petitioners and Multiple Respondents.~~ In cases
2 involving a common question of law or fact, when there are multiple petitioners
3 and/or multiple respondents, the disputes, controversies, and issues shall be
4 consolidated into a single arbitration proceeding.

5 (a) ~~A person who is not a party to the arbitration may join in the~~
6 ~~arbitration at the request of any party with all the rights and~~
7 ~~obligations of the original parties. Each party to an arbitration under~~
8 ~~this chapter is deemed to be bound by the joinder of a new party.~~

9 ~~§ 10112. Offer of Reparation.~~ Prior to the institution of a proceeding or claim
10 by a patient, any offer of reparations and all communications incidental thereto made
11 in writing to a patient by a health professional or health care institution are privileged
12 and may not be used by any party to establish the liability or measure of damages
13 attributable to the offeror.

14 (a) ~~Such an offer shall provide that a patient has thirty (30) days to~~
15 ~~accept or reject the offer, or such lesser period of time as may be necessitated~~
16 ~~by the condition or health of the patient.~~

17 (b) ~~After any rejection or the lapse of the applicable time, any party~~
18 ~~may demand arbitration.~~

19 (c) ~~Any such offer to a patient shall include a statement that the patient~~
20 ~~may consult legal counsel before rejecting or accepting the offer.~~

21 (d) ~~In a case where a potential claim is identified by a health~~
22 ~~professional or health care institution where reparations, in its judgment, are~~
23 ~~not appropriate, the professional or institution may, at its option, file a demand~~
24 ~~for arbitration which demand shall identify the potential claim and deny~~
25 ~~liability.~~

26 ~~§ 10113. Appointment of Guardian Ad Litem.~~

1 ~~(a) When a minor, or an insane or incompetent person is a petitioner,~~
2 ~~he must appear either by general guardian or a Guardian Ad Litem appointed~~
3 ~~by the Superior Court of Guam. A Guardian Ad Litem may be appointed in a~~
4 ~~claim for arbitration under this chapter when it is deemed by a judge of the~~
5 ~~Superior Court of Guam expedient to represent the minor, insane, or~~
6 ~~incompetent person in the arbitration proceeding, notwithstanding he may~~
7 ~~have a general guardian and may have appeared by him. The general guardian~~
8 ~~or Guardian Ad Litem so appearing for an infant, insane or incompetent person~~
9 ~~in any arbitration proceeding shall have the power to compromise the same~~
10 ~~and to agree to any settlement or decision of the arbitrators to be entered~~
11 ~~therein against his ward, subject to the approval of a majority of the~~
12 ~~arbitrators.~~

13 ~~(b) A Guardian Ad Litem appointed by the Superior Court of Guam to~~
14 ~~pursue a claim for arbitration shall be appointed pursuant to §373 of the Guam~~
15 ~~Code of Civil Procedure. Any petition to appoint a Guardian Ad Litem to~~
16 ~~pursue a claim for arbitration shall have a copy of the demand for arbitration~~
17 ~~attached thereto.~~

18 ~~§ 10114. Stay of Proceedings When Suit Is Filed. If any suit or proceeding~~
19 ~~is brought in the courts of Guam upon any issue referable to arbitration under this~~
20 ~~chapter, the court in which said suit is pending, upon being satisfied that the issue~~
21 ~~involved in such suit or proceeding is referable to arbitration under this chapter, shall~~
22 ~~upon application of one of the parties, stay all proceedings in the action until such~~
23 ~~arbitration has been had in accordance with the terms of this chapter.~~

24 ~~§ 10115. Failure to Arbitrate Under This Chapter. The party aggrieved by~~
25 ~~the alleged failure, neglect, or refusal of another to arbitrate under this chapter, may~~
26 ~~petition the Superior Court of Guam, for an order directing that such arbitration~~
27 ~~proceed in the manner provided for in this chapter. Five (5) days notice in writing of~~

1 such application shall be served upon the party in default. Service thereof shall be
2 made in the manner provided by law for the service of summons in the Superior
3 Court of Guam. The court shall hear the parties, and the court shall then make an
4 order directing the parties to proceed to arbitration in accordance with the terms of
5 this chapter.

6 ~~§ 10116. Service of Documents upon Arbitrators; Ex Parte Contract.~~

7 ~~Once the arbitration panel has been selected, each of the arbitrators shall be provided~~
8 ~~with a copy of the demand for arbitration and any responses thereto by the~~
9 ~~Association. Each of the arbitrators shall also be provided by the Association with~~
10 ~~the parties' notices to each other identifying experts, witnesses, documents and~~
11 ~~arbitration briefs as authorized in this chapter. Any motions or requests for additional~~
12 ~~discovery shall also be served upon each of the arbitrators through the Association.~~

13 ~~§ 10117. Witnesses Before Arbitrators.~~ The panel or its chairperson in the
14 arbitration proceeding shall, upon application by a party to the proceeding, and may
15 upon its own determination, issue a subpoena requiring a person to appear and be
16 examined with reference to a matter within the scope of the proceeding, and to
17 produce books, records, or papers pertinent to the proceeding. In case of
18 disobedience to the subpoena, the chairperson or a majority of the arbitration panel
19 in the arbitration proceeding may petition the Superior Court of Guam to require the
20 attendance and testimony of the witness and the production of books, papers, and
21 documents. The Superior Court of Guam, in case of contumacy or refusal to obey a
22 subpoena, may issue an order requiring that person to appear and to produce books,
23 records, and papers and give evidence touching the matter in question. Failure to
24 obey the order of the Court may be punished by the Court as contempt. The fees for
25 the attendance of any person to attend before the arbitration panel as a witness shall
26 be the same as the fees for witnesses subpoenaed before the Superior Court of Guam.
27 The Superior Court of Guam shall order a witness to pay the cost of the aggrieved

1 party, to include attorney's fees, if it is determined that the witness wrongfully failed
2 to appear before the arbitration panel.

3 ~~§ 10118. Evidence and Testimony.~~ A hearing shall be informal and the
4 arbitrators shall be the sole judge of the relevancy and materiality of the evidence
5 offered.

6 (a) ~~The arbitrators may receive and consider evidence in the form of an~~
7 ~~affidavit, but shall give appropriate weight to any objections made. All~~
8 ~~documents to be considered by the arbitrators shall be filed at the hearing.~~

9 (b) ~~Testimony shall be taken under oath and a record of the proceedings~~
10 ~~shall be made by a tape recording. Any party, at the party's expense, may have~~
11 ~~transcriptions or copies of the recording made or may provide for a written~~
12 ~~transcript of the proceedings. The costs of any transcription ordered by the~~
13 ~~panel for its own use shall be deemed part of the costs of the proceedings.~~

14 (c) ~~Expert testimony shall not be required but where expert testimony~~
15 ~~is used, it shall be admitted under the same circumstances as in a civil trial~~
16 ~~and be subject to cross examination.~~

17 (d) ~~The party with the burden of establishing a standard of care and~~
18 ~~breach thereof shall establish such standards whether by the introduction of~~
19 ~~expert testimony, or by other competent proof of the standard and the breach~~
20 ~~thereof, which may include the use of published works as provided in~~
21 ~~subsection (e).~~

22 (e) ~~Authoritative, published works on the general and specific subjects~~
23 ~~in issue may be admitted and argued from, upon prior notice to all other~~
24 ~~parties.~~

25 (f) ~~The panel shall accord such weight and probative worth to expert~~
26 ~~evidence as it deems appropriate. The panel may call a neutral expert on its~~

1 own motion, which expert witness shall be subject to cross examination by
2 the parties. The costs of the expert will be deemed a cost of the proceeding.

3 ~~§ 10119. Identification of Expert Witnesses.~~ Within thirty (30) days after
4 the arbitrators have been selected, any petitioner pursuing a claim against a
5 respondent shall identify the expert witnesses that the petitioner will call at the
6 arbitration hearing. When identifying such experts, the petitioner shall provide the
7 name of the expert, the address of the expert, and shall state the subject matter on
8 which the expert is expected to testify, and state the substance of the facts and
9 opinions to which the expert is to testify and a summary of the grounds for each
10 opinion. Within thirty (30) days after the petitioner has identified his experts, the
11 respondent shall identify the expert witnesses that the respondent will call to testify
12 at the arbitration hearing. The respondent shall provide the name of the expert
13 witness, the address of the expert witness, and state the subject matter on which the
14 expert is expected to testify, and state the substance of the facts and opinions to
15 which the expert is expected to testify and a summary of the grounds for each
16 opinion.

17 ~~§ 10120. Identification of Witnesses and Documents.~~ Within thirty (30)
18 days after the respondent has identified respondent's expert witnesses, the parties
19 shall exchange a list of witnesses that they expect to call to testify at the arbitration
20 hearing along with a summary of each witnesses' proposed testimony. The parties
21 shall also provide each other with copies of all documents and material that they
22 intend to introduce as evidence at the arbitration hearing.

23 ~~§ 10121. Additional Discovery.~~ Additional discovery, not otherwise
24 provided for in this chapter, such as depositions, interrogatories and requests to
25 produce, shall not be permitted unless:

26 (a) The parties stipulate to allow additional discovery; or,

1 ~~(b) A majority of the arbitrators at the pre-arbitration conference~~
2 ~~provided for in § 10122 of this chapter authorize additional discovery for good~~
3 ~~cause shown upon the application of a party to the arbitration proceeding. The~~
4 ~~arbitrators shall liberally authorize additional discovery if it is necessary in~~
5 ~~order for a petitioner or respondent to more adequately present or defend a~~
6 ~~claim.~~

7 ~~§ 10122. Time and Place of Arbitration Hearing. Within thirty (30) days~~
8 ~~after the parties have exchanged their lists of witnesses and provided each other with~~
9 ~~the documents that the parties intend to introduce as evidence at the arbitration~~
10 ~~hearing, the arbitrators shall meet at a place designated by the chairperson and~~
11 ~~conduct a pre-arbitration conference for the purpose of deciding upon a date and~~
12 ~~place for the arbitration hearing, and for the purpose of deciding whether additional~~
13 ~~discovery should be permitted pursuant to § 10121 of this chapter. The arbitrators,~~
14 ~~or a majority of them, shall agree upon a date and place for the arbitration hearing.~~
15 ~~The arbitration hearing shall be conducted within ninety (90) days after the pre-~~
16 ~~arbitration conference between the arbitrators and the parties unless agreed~~
17 ~~otherwise by the parties. Oral notice to the parties at the prearbitration conference of~~
18 ~~the date, time and location of the arbitration hearing shall be deemed sufficient.~~

19 ~~§ 10123. Arbitration Briefs. Any arbitration brief to be filed by a petitioner~~
20 ~~must be filed at least ten (10) working days before the arbitration hearing. Any~~
21 ~~arbitration brief to be filed by a respondent must be filed at least five (5) working~~
22 ~~days before the arbitration hearing. A petitioner may file a reply brief, which shall~~
23 ~~respond only to matters discussed in the respondent's arbitration brief, no later than~~
24 ~~two (2) working days before the arbitration hearing.~~

25 ~~(a) The panel may order submission of post hearing briefs within ten~~
26 ~~(10) calendar days after the closing of hearings. In written briefs, each party~~

1 ~~may summarize the evidence in testimony and may propose a comprehensive~~
2 ~~award of remedial or compensatory elements.~~

3 ~~§ 10124. Representation by Counsel.~~ Any party may be represented in
4 ~~hearings before the arbitration panel by counsel. A party may appear without~~
5 ~~counsel, and shall be advised of such right and the right to retain counsel in a manner~~
6 ~~calculated to inform the person of the nature and complexity of a proceeding by a~~
7 ~~simple concise form to be distributed by the Association administering the~~
8 ~~arbitration.~~

9 ~~§ 10125. Attendance at Hearings.~~ Parties to the arbitration and their counsel
10 ~~are entitled to attend all hearings. Non party witnesses may be excluded by either~~
11 ~~party upon request.~~

12 ~~§ 10126. Oaths.~~ The arbitrators shall require all witnesses at the arbitration
13 ~~hearing to testify under oath.~~

14 ~~§ 10127. Arbitration in the Absence of a Party.~~ The arbitration may proceed
15 ~~in the absence of any party who, after due notice, fails to be present. An award shall~~
16 ~~not be made solely on the default of a party. The arbitrators shall require the~~
17 ~~attending party to submit evidence.~~

18 ~~§ 10128. Adjournments.~~ Hearings may be adjourned by a majority of the
19 ~~arbitrators only for good cause, and an appropriate fee will be charged if the~~
20 ~~arbitrators determine that a party has wrongfully caused an adjournment to take~~
21 ~~place.~~

22 ~~§ 10129. Waiver of Statutory Rights.~~ Any party who proceeds with
23 ~~arbitration after knowledge that any provision of this chapter has not been complied~~
24 ~~with and fails to state his objections thereto in writing shall be deemed to have~~
25 ~~waived his right to object.~~

26 ~~§ 10130. Fees and Costs of Arbitration.~~ Except for the parties to the
27 ~~arbitration and their agents, officers, and employees, all witnesses appearing~~

1 pursuant to subpoena are entitled to receive fees and mileage in the same amount
2 and under the same circumstances as prescribed by law for witnesses in civil actions
3 in the Superior Court of Guam. The fee and mileage of a witness subpoenaed upon
4 the application of a party to the arbitration shall be paid by that party. The fee and
5 mileage of a witness subpoenaed solely upon the determination of the arbitrator or
6 the majority of a panel of arbitrators shall be paid in the manner provided for the
7 payment of the arbitrators' expenses.

8 (a) The costs of each arbitrator's fees and expenses, together with any
9 administrative fee may be assessed against any party in the award or may be
10 assessed among parties in such proportions as may be determined in the
11 arbitration award. Each party shall bear its own attorney's fees in the
12 arbitration proceeding.

13 ~~§ 10131. Damages.~~ Damages shall be monetary only and shall be without
14 limitation as to nature or amount unless otherwise provided by law.

15 ~~§ 10132. Timely Award.~~ The award of the arbitrators shall be rendered
16 promptly by the arbitrators and, unless otherwise agreed by the parties, not later than
17 twenty (20) business days from the date of the close of the hearing. However, if the
18 arbitrators fail to render an award within twenty (20) business days from the date of
19 the close of the hearing, the arbitrators' award shall not be vacated on this ground
20 unless it can be proven that a party has been seriously prejudiced due to the fact that
21 the arbitrators have not rendered an award within twenty (20) business days.

22 ~~§ 10133. Award of Arbitrators.~~ A majority of the panel of arbitrators may
23 grant monetary damages only deemed equitable and just.

24 (a) The award in the arbitration proceeding shall be in writing and shall
25 be signed by the arbitrators or a majority of the panel of arbitrators. An award
26 cannot be rendered unless it is signed by a majority of the arbitrators. The
27 award shall include a determination of all the questions submitted to

1 arbitration by each party, the resolution of which is necessary to determine the
2 dispute, controversy, or issue.

3 (b) ~~The panel shall determine the degree to which each respondent~~
4 ~~party, if more than one, was at fault for the total damages accruing to any other~~
5 ~~party to the arbitration, considering all sources of damage involving parties to~~
6 ~~the arbitration, but excluding the damages attributable to persons not parties~~
7 ~~to the arbitration.~~

8 (c) ~~The panel shall prepare a schedule of contributions according to the~~
9 ~~relative fault of each party which schedule shall be binding on those parties,~~
10 ~~but such determination shall not affect a claimant's right to recover jointly and~~
11 ~~severally from all parties where such right otherwise exists in the law.~~

12 ~~§ 10134. Delivery of Award to Parties. The parties shall accept as legal~~
13 ~~delivery of the award the placing of the award or a true copy thereof in the mail by~~
14 ~~the arbitrators addressed to such party at its last known address or to the party's~~
15 ~~attorney, or personal service of the award on the party or the party's attorney.~~

16 ~~§ 10135. Confirmation of Award. At any time within one (1) year after an~~
17 ~~award is made, any party to the arbitration may apply to the Superior Court of Guam~~
18 ~~for an order confirming the award and thereupon the court must grant such an order~~
19 ~~unless the award is vacated, modified, corrected, or appealed as prescribed in §§~~
20 ~~10136, 10137 and 10139 of this Chapter. Notice of the application shall be served~~
21 ~~upon the adverse party, and thereupon the court shall have jurisdiction of such party~~
22 ~~as though he had appeared generally in the proceeding. If the adverse party is a~~
23 ~~resident of Guam, service shall be made upon the adverse party as prescribed by law~~
24 ~~for the service of a civil action in the Superior Court of Guam. If the adverse party~~
25 ~~shall be a non-resident, then the notice of the application shall be served in like~~
26 ~~manner as other process of the Superior Court of Guam served upon non-residents.~~

1 ~~§ 10136. Vacation of Arbitration Award.~~ In any of the following cases, the
2 Superior Court of Guam may make an order vacating the award upon the application
3 of any party to the arbitration:

4 ~~(a) Where the award was procured by corruption, fraud or undue means;~~

5 ~~(b) Where there was corruption in any of the arbitrators;~~

6 ~~(c) Where the arbitrators exceeded their powers and the award cannot~~
7 ~~be corrected without affecting the merits of the decision upon the controversy~~
8 ~~submitted; or~~

9 ~~(d) Where the rights of such party were substantially prejudiced by the~~
10 ~~refusal of the arbitrators to postpone the hearing upon sufficient cause being~~
11 ~~shown therefore or by the refusal of the arbitrators to hear evidence material~~
12 ~~to the controversy or by other conduct of the arbitrators contrary to the~~
13 ~~provisions of this chapter. Where an award is vacated, the court shall direct a~~
14 ~~re-hearing by the arbitrators, or if the court deems it appropriate, shall direct~~
15 ~~the parties to select new arbitrators for another arbitration proceeding.~~

16 ~~§ 10137. Modification of Award.~~ In any of the following cases, the Superior
17 Court of Guam may make an order modifying or correcting the award upon the
18 application of any party to the arbitration:

19 ~~(a) Where there was an evident material miscalculation of figures or an~~
20 ~~evident material mistake in the description of any person, thing, or property~~
21 ~~referred to in the award.~~

22 ~~(b) Where the arbitrators have awarded upon a matter not submitted to~~
23 ~~them, unless it is a matter not effecting the merits of the decision upon the~~
24 ~~matter submitted.~~

25 ~~(c) Where the award is imperfect in matter or form not effecting the~~
26 ~~merits of the controversy. The court may modify and correct the award so as~~
27 ~~to effect the intent thereof and promote justice between the parties.~~

1 ~~§ 10138. Notice of Motion to Vacate or Modify.~~ Notice of a motion to
2 vacate, modify, or correct an award must be served upon the adverse party or his
3 attorney within thirty (30) days after the award is served upon the party seeking to
4 vacate, modify or correct the award.

5 ~~§ 10139. Notice of Appeal and Request for Trial De Novo.~~

6 ~~(a) Within thirty (30) days after the award is served upon the parties,~~
7 ~~any party may file with the clerk of the Superior Court of Guam and serve on~~
8 ~~the other parties and the Association a written Notice of Appeal and Request~~
9 ~~for Trial De Novo of the action.~~

10 ~~(b) After the filing and service of the written Notice of Appeal and~~
11 ~~Request for Trial De Novo, the case shall be set for trial pursuant to applicable~~
12 ~~court rules.~~

13 ~~(c) If the action is triable by right to a jury, and a jury was not originally~~
14 ~~demande but is demanded within ten (10) days of service of the Notice of~~
15 ~~Appeal and Request for Trial De Novo by a party having the right of trial by~~
16 ~~jury, the trial de novo shall include a jury, and a jury trial fee shall be paid as~~
17 ~~provided by law.~~

18 ~~§ 10140. Procedures at Trial De Novo.~~

19 ~~(a) The clerk shall seal any arbitration award if a trial de novo is~~
20 ~~requested. The jury will not be informed of the arbitration proceeding, the~~
21 ~~award, or about any other aspect of the arbitration proceedings. The sealed~~
22 ~~arbitration award shall not be opened until after the verdict is received and~~
23 ~~filed in a jury trial, or until after the judge has rendered a decision in a court~~
24 ~~trial.~~

25 ~~(b) All discovery permitted during the course of the arbitration~~
26 ~~proceedings shall be admissible in the trial de novo subject to all applicable~~
27 ~~rules of civil procedure and evidence. The court in the trial de novo shall~~

1 insure that any reference to the arbitration proceeding is omitted from any
2 discovery taken therein and sought to be introduced at the trial de novo.

3 (c) No statements or testimony made in the course of the arbitration
4 hearing shall be admissible in evidence for any purpose in the trial de novo.

5 ~~§ 10141. Scheduling of the Trial De Novo.~~ Every case transferred to the
6 court shall maintain the approximate position on the civil trial docket as if the case
7 had not been so transferred, unless at the discretion of the court, the docket position
8 is modified.

9 ~~§ 10142. The Prevailing Party in the Trial De Novo; Costs.~~

10 (a) The Prevailing Party in a trial de novo is the party who has (1)
11 appealed and improved upon the arbitration award by forty percent (40%) or
12 more, or (2) has not appealed and the opposing party has appealed and failed
13 to improve upon the arbitration award by forty percent (40%) or more. For the
14 purpose of this rule, improve or improved means to increase the award for a
15 plaintiff or to decrease the award for the defendant.

16 (b) The Prevailing Party under these rules, as defined above, is deemed
17 the prevailing party under any statute or rule of court, and as such is entitled
18 to costs of trial and all other remedies as provided by law.

19 ~~§ 10143. Sanction for Failing to Prevail in the Trial De Novo.~~

20 (a) After the verdict is received and filed, or the court's decision
21 rendered in a trial de novo, the trial court shall impose sanctions, as set forth
22 below, against the non-prevailing party whose appeal resulted in the trial de
23 novo.

24 (b) The sanctions to be imposed by the court are as follows: (1)
25 Reasonable costs and fees (other than attorneys' fees) actually incurred by the
26 party but not otherwise taxable under the law; (2) Costs of jurors; (3)
27 Reasonable attorneys' fees actually incurred by the prevailing party.

1 ~~(c) Sanctions imposed against a plaintiff will be deducted from any~~
2 ~~award rendered. Sanctions imposed against a defendant will be added to any~~
3 ~~award rendered.~~

4 ~~§ 10144. Applicability to Government of Guam and Its Agencies. Claims~~
5 ~~against the government of Guam and its agencies are governed by the Government~~
6 ~~Claims Act. Thus, this chapter does not apply to claims against the Guam Memorial~~
7 ~~Hospital Authority or other health care institutions established by the government of~~
8 ~~Guam.~~

9 ~~§ 10145. Prospective Effect of Chapter. This chapter shall not apply to any~~
10 ~~claim that accrues before the date that the chapter becomes law.~~

11 ~~§ 10146. This Chapter to Prevail. The provisions of Title 5, Chapter 32,~~
12 ~~Guam Code Annotated, entitled, Deceptive Trade Practices—Consumer Protection~~
13 ~~Act, shall not be applicable to this chapter and to the extent any of the provisions of~~
14 ~~this chapter are inconsistent or conflict with the provisions of the Deceptive Trade~~
15 ~~Practices—Consumer Protection Act or any other provision of law, the terms of this~~
16 ~~chapter shall prevail and control.~~

17 ~~§ 10147. Severability Clause. If any section or sentence of this chapter is~~
18 ~~deemed unconstitutional, then that section or sentence shall be severed from the~~
19 ~~chapter and the remainder of the chapter shall remain and be of full force and effect.”~~