

judges so designated and commissioned as the chief judge of his respective court, are hereby ratified and confirmed to all intents and purposes as if this section had been in full force when such designations were made and commissions issued, and full power and authority are hereby vested in each of said judges so designated and commissioned as chief judge to act as such chief judge, and all writs and other process tested in the names of said chief judges respectively are hereby declared valid to all intents and purposes, as if this section had been in force when the same were issued.

1896, ch 246.

230. The court shall have full power to take probate of wills, grant letters testamentary and of administration, direct the conduct and settling the accounts of executors and administrators, superintend the distribution of the estates of intestates, secure the rights of orphans and legatees, and to administer justice in all matters relative to the affairs of deceased persons; and also of persons who by their uninterrupted absence, unheard of for above seven years, are supposed to be dead; provided, that when any will or codicil shall be presented for probate, or application shall be made for letters testamentary, or of administration upon the estate of a person so absent and unheard of for above seven years, the person presenting such will or codicil, or making application for letters, as aforesaid, shall file a written petition, under oath, setting forth the time when and place where absentee was last heard of by his family or friends; that diligent inquiry has been made among the family, relatives and friends of such absentee; and that advertisement and inquiry by letters or otherwise have been made, at the most likely place of his last residence, and that no information, by any of these means, has been obtained of such absentee since the date set forth in the petition, which must be above seven years prior to the date of the petition, and that the applicant verily believes such absentee to be dead, whereupon the court shall order notice, by publication, to be given in one or more newspapers, stating that a will or codicil purporting to be the will or codicil of such absentee had been presented for probate, or that application had been made for letters testamentary or of administration upon the estate of such absentee, as the case may