

(h) insure the property of the estate against damage, loss and liability, and himself, as personal representative, against liability in respect to third persons;

(i) effect a fair and reasonable compromise with any creditor or obligee, or extend or renew any obligation due by the estate;

(j) pay taxes, assessments and other expenses incident to the administration of the estate;

(k) sell or exercise stock subscription, conversion or option rights; consent to or oppose, directly or through a committee or other agent, the reorganization, consolidation, merger, dissolution or liquidation of a corporation or other business enterprise;

(l) pay the decedent's funeral expenses in accordance with the procedures provided in Section 8-106, including the cost of burial space and a suitable tombstone or marker, and the cost of perpetual care thereof;

(m) employ for reasonable compensation auditors, investment advisors or other persons with special skills, to advise or assist the personal representative in the performance of his administrative duties;

(n) prosecute, defend or submit to arbitration actions, claims, or proceedings in any jurisdiction for the protection of the estate; provided, however, that (i) no personal representative may institute an action for slander against the decedent, and (ii) in any action instituted by the personal representative against a tortfeasor for a wrong which resulted in the death of the decedent, the personal representative shall be entitled to recover the funeral expenses of the decedent not in excess of \$1,000 in addition to any other damages recoverable in such action;

(o) continue any unincorporated business or venture in which the decedent was engaged at the time of his death (1) in the same business form for a period of not more than four months from the date of appointment of a personal representative where continuation is a reasonable means of preserving the value of the business including good will, (2) in the same business form for any additional period of time that may be approved by order of Court in a proceeding to which all persons interested in the estate are parties, or (3) throughout the period of administration if the business is incorporated after the death of the decedent;

(p) incorporate any business or venture in which the decedent was engaged at the time of his death if none of the probable distributees of the business who are competent adults objects to its incorporation and retention in the estate;

(q) exercise any options, rights and privileges contained in any life insurance policy, annuity, or endowment contract constituting property of the estate, including the right to obtain the cash surrender value, convert any such policy to any other type of policy, revoke any mode of settlement, and pay any part or all of the premiums on any such policy or contract;

(r) pay any valid claim and distribute the estate as provided in this Article;

(s) when any assets of the estate are encumbered by mortgage, pledge, lien, or other security interest, pay the encumbrance or any