

**IN THE MAHONING COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
PROBATE DIVISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF
COURT OPERATIONAL
MATTERS IN RESPONSE
TO COVID-19**

) **Case No: 2020 MC 00 41**
)
) **JUDGE ROBERT N. RUSU, JR.**
)
) **JOURNAL ENTRY**

It is hereby ordered, adjudged and decreed that effective immediately and in the interest of public health, the *Mahoning County Probate Court* has modified its operations to minimize the number of people who need to physically appear in person at the Court due to the COVID-19 emergency. Therefore, the Court is implementing a common sense approach to matters that come before it.

The Court will allow and encourages all parties to file necessary pleadings with the Court in one of the following methods, without having to personally appear at the Court:

1. by faxing all necessary pleadings to **330-740-2325**;
2. by emailing all necessary pleadings to **mcprobate@mahoningcountyoh.gov**; and
3. by *U.S. Postal Service* to *Mahoning County Probate Court*, 120 Market Street, First Floor, Youngstown, Ohio 44503.

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The only documents that the Court will not allow to be filed via facsimile or email is an *Application to Probate Will (SPF 2.0)* and the original Last Will and Testament in a new estate administration. Further, all pleadings filed by facsimile or via email shall be considered original pleadings.

Further, the Court will consider, upon written request, that any upcoming hearing be held telephonically. The decision as to which hearings may be conducted telephonically, shall remain in the sole discretion of the *Mahoning County Probate Court*. Any party requesting to attend a hearing telephonically shall file a written request via facsimile, email or *U.S. Postal Service* as listed above.

The Court strongly encourages requests for continuances in situations of any health concern. Please do not hesitate to bring any concerns or questions about a particular matter or situation to the attention of the appropriate Court staff, including determining whether a personal



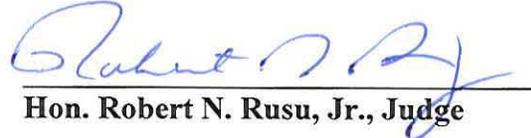
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appearance is required or another reasonable accommodation and alternative to requesting a continuance might be possible under the circumstances.

This policy shall remain in effect until further order of the Court and it determines that the Covid-19 emergency has passed.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: March 13, 2020


Hon. Robert N. Rusu, Jr., Judge

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