

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
PICKAWAY COUNTY, OHIO
PROBATE DIVISION

FILED
2020 JUN 23 AM 11:44
JANICE L. BROWN
PROBATE COURT CLERK
PICKAWAY COUNTY, OHIO

SUPPLEMENTAL ORDER IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The Probate Division of the Common Pleas Court makes the following Findings of Fact:

1. On March 9, 2020 Ohio Governor Mike DeWine issued Executive Order 2020-01D “Declaring a State of Emergency” in response to the growing COVID-19 public health crisis.
2. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization officially declared COVID-19 to be a global “pandemic” requiring “urgent and aggressive action” to control the spread of the virus.

Based upon these Findings of Fact, the Probate Division of the Court of Common Pleas has developed a continuum of flexible responses in case the public health crisis escalates. The continuum of responses is intended to protect public health, to maintain essential court functions, and to continue to protect the rights of all individuals subject to the authority of the Court.

Effective June 24, 2020 and continuing until further order of the court, the following are orders of the court in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This Order supplements the Order filed with the court on May 1, 2020 and to the extent necessary supersedes any inconsistent order contained in that May 1, 2020 Order.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

Marriage license applications may continue to be submitted by the electronic means as described on the court website. Applicants are encouraged to use this method to maintain minimal contact with court staff.

GUARDIANSHIP CASES

Service of process shall be performed in a manner that protects both the court investigator and the prospective ward. The applicant or counsel for the applicant shall inform the clerk upon filing the application of any special instructions or concerns regarding service upon the prospective ward. The Court Investigator may perform the investigation by electronic means provided that such investigation is conducted in a fair, impartial and reliable manner to assure compliance with the statutes and rules governing investigations. The Court Investigator shall determine and inform the court in the Court Investigation Report whether the personal presence of the prospective ward or videoconference is necessary to conduct the hearing. Counsel for the applicant or if not represented by counsel, the applicant, shall inform the court whether they will be appearing in person or remotely and whether any

witnesses will be appearing in person or remotely so that the Court can make appropriate preparations. This information shall be filed in writing with the clerk at least seven (7) days in advance of the hearing and should be disclosed upon the filing of the application.

ADOPTIONS

Remote videoconference hearings will continue to be authorized and preferred unless otherwise noted herein.

For adoptions where all consents have been obtained and filed, counsel for the petitioner(s) shall inform the court whether they will be appearing in person or remotely and whether any witnesses will be appearing in person or remotely so that the Court can make appropriate preparations.

For adoptions of which the issue of the necessity of consent must be determined or for contested best interest determinations, the court will conduct such hearings in person unless a party requests remote participation due to coronavirus concerns.

NAME CHANGES

Adult Name Change hearings are authorized by this rule to be held remotely by videoconference unless the court otherwise notifies the parties of the necessity of an in person hearing.

Minor name changes wherein both parents have not consented shall be held in person. Minor name changes wherein both parents have consented may be held remotely by videoconference or telephone conference.

PROBATE ESTATE AND ALL OTHER MATTERS

Any estate or other probate case not noted above that is contested shall be held in person, unless a person request remote participation by videoconference due to COVID-19 concerns. Such request must be made in writing at least seven (7) days in advance of the hearing.

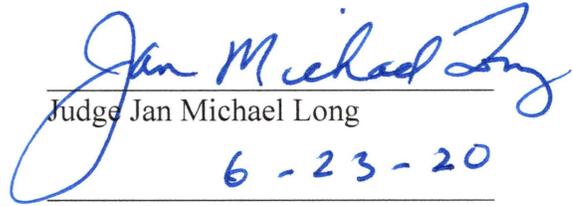
RULE GOVERNING IN PERSON HEARING

The court will control and limit the number of persons in the courtroom to assure proper distancing. When parties, attorneys and staff are personally present in court, each will be subject to having their temperature taken, must maintain directed physical distancing, wear a face mask, face covering or face shield at all times in the courtroom and respond to a brief inquiry about current health conditions and potential prior exposure to COVID-19. If an individual has a temperature reading of 100.4 or higher, that person will not be admitted to the courtroom. If any individual refuses to wear a designated a face covering, such person shall not be admitted to the

courtroom at that time and the court staff will immediately inform the judge to determine how the case may proceed.

When hearings are held by videoconference, instructions on how to participate in remote appearances will be mailed or emailed to the parties and their attorney. It is the responsibility of the parties and the attorney to provide current addresses or email information to the clerk to assure proper delivery of notices and information.

Cc: Pickaway County Bar Association
Pickaway County Prosecutor
Judge P. Randall Knece
James Dean, Clerk of Courts
Robert Radcliff, Pickaway County Sheriff
Judge Elisa Peters
Supreme Court of Ohio



Judge Jan Michael Long
6-23-20

Date