

FILED
IN COMMON PLEAS COURT

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
PROBATE DIVISION
GEAUGA COUNTY, OHIO**

2020 OCT 29 PM 3:21

PROBATE-JUVENILE
DIVISION
GEAUGA COUNTY, OHIO

IN RE:)	JUDGE TIMOTHY J. GRENDALL
)	
CONTINUED OPERATIONS OF THE)	
GEAUGA COUNTY PROBATE COURT)	ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
DUE TO COVID-19)	2020-152

Based on recent guidance from the Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court, and in a prudent effort to reduce physical interaction at Geauga County Probate Court during the uncertainty arising from the ongoing coronavirus situation (COVID-19), the Court finds it appropriate to issue further orders, and reiterate prior orders intended to ensure the well-being of all those involved in the Probate Court process.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. To ensure the well-being of both Court staff and individuals who enter the Court, individuals will have his or her temperature checked and hands sanitized (as is the Court's current procedure). Any individual, upon screening procedures, who exhibits signs of illness shall be directed to leave the courthouse immediately.
2. There will only be one individual, couple or family at a time when conducting business with a clerk at each of the clerk windows (Juvenile, Probate, and the Marriage License window).
3. The Court, in attempt to limit physical interaction and space within the courtroom, requests that individuals who are not parties or witnesses not attend court proceedings.

4. The following Probate Court proceedings shall remain to be in-person: guardianships, adoptions, and non-jury trials. These proceedings may be relocated to a larger venue to allow for more social distancing as deemed necessary by the Court.
5. All other types of Probate Court proceedings will be conducted telephonically, unless specifically ordered otherwise to be in-person.
6. Jury trials, if any, will be addressed accordingly, and will take into account relocating these hearings to a larger venue to allow for more social distancing as deemed necessary by the Court.
7. Emergency hearings, that include but not limited to, emergency guardianship and civil commitments, will continue to be handled under current procedures.
8. Marriage licenses will continued to be processed and issued for couples applying. Appropriate safety precautions will be used.
9. The Court reserves the option to have any hearing in-person or telephonically as it deems necessary and appropriate, and parties or counsel may, by motion, request hearings to be conducted in-person or telephonically.
10. Filings will be accepted by fax at 440-285-8751, as long as the original is also filed by mail. The forms for most probate cases are available at <https://www.co.geauga.oh.us/commonpleas/Probate/Probate-Forms-and-Information-Sheets>.

IT IS SO ORDERED.


JUDGE TIMOTHY J. GRENDALL

cc: