

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

IN RE:) CASE NO.
)
THE GENERAL ORDERS FOR THE) JUDGE ELINORE MARSH STORMER
CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE)
SUMMIT COUNTY PROBATE) **GENERAL ORDERS**
COURT) **CORONA VIRUS EMERGENCY**

It is the intention of the Court to remain open to perform its essential functions. These Orders are meant to discourage people from coming to court unless absolutely necessary. In order to minimize the effects of the ongoing coronavirus emergency, the Summit County Probate Court issues the following General Orders:

1. The Court shall remain open to the public. However social distancing protocols are to be followed. Any member of the public who does not follow the directives of the staff on this topic will be removed by a deputy Sheriff.
2. The Marriage license department is open and will remain open. Those wanting a license must still come to court but are encouraged to fill out the forms on line and bring them with you in order to minimize your time at court. Applicants may be asked to wait in the corridor.
3. The Help Desk is closed until further notice.
4. Filings which can be made via e-filing or ordinary mail should be filed that way. If money is owed before the filing can be accepted, the party is to list a phone number where you can be reached. The Clerk's office will reach out to you regarding the fees.
5. All hearings which can be converted to a telephone status will be.

6. All hearings which require personal appearances will be continued unless the Court orders that the hearing take place in person. Hearings which can be handled via Skype, will be.
7. Where personal service of the Notice of appointment of the filing of a guardianship required by R.C. 2111.04 is not possible, the Court will appoint the Guardian on a limited basis pursuant to R.C. 2111.02(B)(1). A limited guardianship shall be in effect for 14 days and may be extended for 14 days. A full guardianship hearing will be held at the earliest possible date when the required personal service is complete.
8. If an emergency guardianship is required, the same process as in #7 may be followed. The time limits of 3 days and 30 days remain in effect.
9. If a limited or emergency guardianship is ordered, the Court reserves the right to extend the duration of the guardianships in the best interests of the ward.
10. Forms for most probate cases are available at : <https://summitohioprobate.com>
Parties should use these forms and return them to the Court by regular mail, or e-filing.
11. Name change hearings are cancelled until further notice. However, when appropriate, the Court may waive the personal appearance of the applicant. Where this is not possible, the hearing will be continued until further notice. Applicants will be notified if the hearing is continued.

12. Adoption hearings are cancelled during the crisis. If this is a particular hardship, contact Stephanie Wintermute at the Court.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Judge Elinore Marsh Stormer