

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

JAN MICHAEL LUKASIK
PROBATE COURT JUDGE
PICKAWAY COUNTY, OHIO

2020 MAR 18 PM 2:32

FILED

ORDER IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

The Common Pleas Court of Pickaway County, Probate Division, makes the following findings of fact:

1. On March 9, 2020, Ohio Governor Mike Dewine issues Executive Order 2020-01D “Declaring a State of Emergency” in response to the growing COVID-19 public health emergency.
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.
3. On March 11, 2020, the first “community transfer” positive case of COVID-19 in the State of Ohio was confirmed.

Based upon these Findings of Fact, the Juvenile Division of the Court of Common Pleas has developed protocol in response to this public health emergency. These protocols are intended to protect public health, maintain essential court functions, and continue to protect the rights of all individuals subject to the authority of the Court.

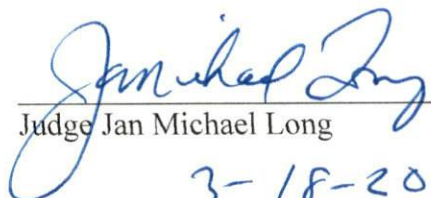
THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. The Local Rules of Court may be temporarily modified to allow Court flexibility, within Constitutional limits, in response to the public health emergency.
2. Court policies may be temporarily adjusted to maintain essential court operations and functions.
3. The Court authorizes the use of audiovisual devices and technologies for all actions and proceedings. All pretrials will be conducted by teleconference or videoconference, unless the Court orders that the hearing will take place in person.
4. The Court has determined the public health emergency is a good cause for continuances.
5. All matters scheduled between March 16, 2020 and April 13, 2020 for a hearing, will be continued to a future date, unless the Court notifies the parties and counsel otherwise.

6. This Court will have the lawful authority, within Constitutional limits, to do or direct to be done all things necessary to ensure the orderly and efficient administration of justice and public safety for the duration of the declared State of Emergency.
7. An automatic extension of 60 days is granted on all of the following:
 - a. The filing of all Inventories, including Estates, Guardianships and Trusts;
 - b. The filing of all Accounts, including Estates, Guardianships and Trusts;
 - c. The filing of Guardian's Reports, Statements of Expert Evaluation, Annual Guardian Plans and Compliance with Guardianship Education;
8. Attorneys with pending hearings scheduled after April 13, 2020 must contact the Court prior to the hearing to make arrangements for the hearing.
9. All pro se parties (parties without an attorney) must contact the Court at 740-474-3950 prior to the hearing to make arrangements for participation in any hearing.
10. Filings will be accepted via FAX at 740-477-3852 or email at splanck@pickawaycountyohio.gov. This does not apply to original case filings.
11. 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 limited basis pursuant to R.C. 2111.02(B)(1). The Court will conduct a full guardianship hearing in the future at the earliest possible date when the required personal service is completed.
12. Forms for most probate cases are available at:
http://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/LegalResources/Rules/superintendence/probate_forms/default.asp. Parties are encouraged to use these forms and return the forms to the Court via mail, private delivery, email or fax. Parties are further encouraged to delay filings that do not constitute an emergency or are not required by Ohio law.

It is the intention of the Court to remain in operation to perform its essential functions. The General Orders herein are meant to discourage anyone from personally appearing in the offices of the Pickaway County Probate Court unless absolutely necessary.

Cc: Pickaway County Bar Association
Pickaway County Prosecutor
Judge P. Randall Knece
James Dean, Clerk of Courts



Judge Jan Michael Long
3-18-20

Date