

FILED
WOOD COUNTY
PROBATE COURT

2020 AUG 19 A 9:59

PROBATE JUDGE
DAVID E. WOESSNER

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

IN RE:	*	Case No. 20127078
GENERAL ORDERS FOR THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE WOOD COUNTY PROBATE COURT	* * *	Judge David E. Woessner <u>GENERAL ORDERS</u>

By order filed March 20, 2020, this court issued certain general orders arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. In part, these general orders impacted the filing deadlines for certain probate proceedings.

On March 27, 2020 the Supreme Court of Ohio issued an order tolling time requirements for the continued and effective operation of the judicial system during an emergency period. Said order tolled time until the expiration of the governor's executive order 2020-01D or July 30, 2020 whichever is sooner. As of July 31, 2020, the tolling order has been lifted.

Based on the foregoing, the court finds it prudent to address time deadlines and general operations of the court. Giving consideration to the expiration of the tolling order as well as the ongoing health-related orders and protocols, the court issues the following orders.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED this court's March 20, 2020 General Orders are vacated.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED the following general orders are effective immediately:

1. The filing deadline for all inventories, accounts, reports of distribution, and certificates of service of notice of probate of will shall be extended by a period of time equal to the amount of time from March 8, 2020 (the effective date of the tolling order) through the original due date.
2. Given the local and statewide logistical issues inhibiting participation, guardian education shall be suspended for the balance of the year 2020. This requirement shall be renewed in 2021.
3. Status reports for estate cases remain due annually. Counsel are encouraged to review pending matters and file a status report where appropriate. The court retains discretion to order a status report at any time.
4. Guardian's Reports remain due annually. Guardian's Reports will be accepted even if the guardian has been unable to visit the ward due to the pandemic.
5. Pretrials and certain uncontested matters may continue to be conducted by teleconference or videoconference, unless the court orders that the hearing take place in person. Final pre-trials will occur at the court unless otherwise determined. At the time a matter is scheduled, counsel and parties should be prepared to provide the court certain information relative to allowing a matter to be conducted by videoconferencing or by phone. Attorneys and parties are

strongly encouraged to call ahead to confirm the status of any scheduled hearing.

6. Where personal service of the filing of an Application for the Appointment of a Guardian required by R.C. 2111.04 is not possible, service will be considered effective upon delivery to facility staff or a private home resident. The court will conduct a guardianship hearing in the future at the earliest possible date when the required personal service is completed.
7. All pleadings shall be submitted to the court in one of the following ways:
 - A. Email all pleadings to probatecourt@woodcountyohio.gov
 - B. Fax pleadings to 419-354-9357
 - C. U.S. Postal Service to Wood County Probate Court, One Courthouse Square, Bowling Green, Ohio 43402. If utilizing the U.S. Postal Service, please allow for sufficient time for delivery as the court has been experiencing mail delivery delays.
 - D. The court has in place a drop box immediately at the entrance of the Probate Court office which will be frequently monitored.
8. To maintain social distancing, the court may limit the appearance of non-parties at certain hearings.

All until further order.



Judge David E. Woessner