PROBATE COURT
OF COBB COUNTY

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KELLI L. WOLK
JUDGE

March 13, 2020

Greetings,

On March 13, 2020, Chief Judge Reuben Green issued an Order Declaring Judicial Emergency ("Order") for the Cobb Judicial Circuit pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 38-3-60. The Order provides that "civil and other non-essential matters shall be limited by the courts."

Pursuant to the Order and in the interest of public health, safety, and welfare; the Probate Court of Cobb County will remain open and will conduct all essential functions listed below. All other, non-essential matters will, by separate order, be canceled, rescheduled, or conducted by alternative methods for the duration of the judicial emergency. Amended hearing notices will be sent to all parties with remaining matters at the conclusion of the judicial emergency.

The following are designated as the essential functions of the **Cobb Probate Court:**

- Proceedings under O.C.G.A. §§ 29-4-14 and 29-5-14 *et seq.* (Emergency guardianship/conservatorship Petitions)
- Proceedings under O.C.G.A. §§ 29-4-1 and 29-5-1 *et seq.* (Permanent guardianships/conservatorships with accusations of abuse, neglect, or harm)
- Other legitimate emergency petitions or motions
- Medical consent guardianships (which are expected to increase)
- All proceeding in the Probate Court pertaining to or resulting from actions identified in Title 31, and Title 37
- Marriage licenses (**NOTE:** *we would request any parties wishing to obtain a marriage license for future or unscheduled wedding ceremonies delay application during the heightened risk period.)*
- Pending Citations for mismanagement by fiduciaries.

We would like to encourage all attorneys and self-represented litigants to conduct business with the Court via mail as often as possible rather than filing pleadings or other documents in person with the Court.

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. §§ 15-9-60(d), attorneys and self-represented litigants will be able to submit an initial thirty ($30.00) deposit in order to file non-emergency actions. A subsequent order will be entered specifying the fees due to process the filing and a date by which such fees must be paid or the action will stand dismissed.

The Court will be issuing amended orders on currently pending matters to provide for telephonic hearings where possible and rescheduling where impractical. If you are unsure about the status of a hearing, please contact the Court at 770-528-1900 or go to https://www.cobbcounty.org/courts/probate-court/contact for contact information particular to your case.

Kelli L. Wolk, Judge Cobb County Probate Court