

STATE OF MICHIGAN GENESEE COUNTY PROBATE COURT

Duncan M. Beagle, Chief Judge of Probate
Jennie E. Barkey, Presiding Judge of Probate
F. Kay Behm, Judge of Probate
Assigned to the Circuit Court



Samuel A. Olson, Administrator/Probate Register
Telephone: (810) 257-3528
Fax: (810) 257-3234

900 S. Saginaw Street, Room 502
Flint, Michigan 48502

COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) – PROBATE FIDUCIARIES AND VISITS

Genesee County Probate Court Guardians and Fiduciaries,

The threat of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) demands diligence to protect and ensure the safety of our vulnerable adults (i.e., at-risk individuals age 60 and over). These individuals are at a heightened risk of susceptibility to the virus and the consequences resulting from infection. The Genesee County Probate Court has taken steps to protect our vulnerable adults from traveling to and physically appearing at court proceedings. However, it is incumbent on you as guardians and fiduciaries, in communication with your wards, their family members, and facilities, to take steps necessary and appropriate to remain apprised of the health and safety of for whom you have been appointed.

Given the seriousness of the virus, the Court expects many of our local nursing homes, assisted living facilities, adult foster care home, and other care facilities to implement “lock dock” procedures. As such, **the Court shall interpret your requirement to “visit” your wards, pursuant to MCL 700.5314(a), in a practicable manner given the current health concerns.** The Court would recommend utilizing remote technology (e.g., phone calls, video conferences, etc.) as a means to “visit” your wards and stay apprised of current health issues. Regular communication with facility staff and other involved in the direct care of your wards should likewise be emphasized.

Please communicate to your wards’ family members the commonsense precautions to prevent the spread of infectious disease. Further information regarding COVID-19 can be found at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) website, www.Michigan.gov/coronavirus.

Genesee County Court leadership is continuing to review court operations in conjunction with the Michigan Supreme Court, Genesee County and local health officials regarding COVID-19. Further information may be obtained by accessing the Genesee County Probate Court website, www.gcprobatecourt.com, and the 7th Circuit Court website, www.7thcircuitcourt.com.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jennie E. Barkey'.

Jennie E. Barkey
Presiding Judge, Genesee County Probate Court

March 12, 2020