



STATE OF MICHIGAN
KENT COUNTY PROBATE COURT

DAVID M. MURKOWSKI
CHIEF JUDGE

SUITE 9500 C
180 OTTAWA AVENUE NW
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN 49503-2751

News Release
Kent County Probate Court
Grand Rapids, MI – March 16, 2020

Following the Declaration of Emergency by Governor Whitmer regarding the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the Kent County Probate Court will only accept emergency filings and will only conduct emergency hearings, effective **Tuesday, March 17, 2020** through **Monday, April 13, 2020**. All hearings scheduled during this period will be adjourned to a date after June 1, 2020, except for developmentally disabled guardianship hearings scheduled on March 18, 2020, and any currently scheduled emergency hearing, as detailed below. The Court will notify parties of adjourned hearings dates when the Court reopens.

Starting **Tuesday, March 17, 2020**, only emergency filings will be accepted during normal business hours (Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.). These include:

- mental health pick-up/transport orders
- other mental health petitions, including petitions for hospitalization
- guardianships (of legally incapacitated or developmentally disabled individuals) involving life-threatening medical emergencies
- conservatorships with immediate pending evictions/foreclosures/shut off notices
- petitions for the sale of real property
- estates where immediate access to residence is necessary
- petitions for immediate funeral/burial arrangements
- requests for ex parte temporary restraining orders
- emergency petitions filed by Adult Protective Services

The Court will be closed to the public as to all other matters. For emergency hearings, the Court will utilize remote appearance to the greatest extent possible. To arrange appearance by telephone or videoconference, please contact the Court at (616) 632-5440 or probatecourt@kentcountymi.gov. The Court asks that individuals who are not parties or necessary to a case to not enter the Courthouse.

Additionally, there will also be no in-person assistance at the front counter. Petitions and documents for emergency matters only may be filed:

- via email, at probatecourt@kentcountymi.gov
- in the designated drop box outside the entrance to the 2nd Floor clerk's office, or
- through U.S. mail.

Questions may be directed to probatecourt@kentcountymi.gov, which will be monitored by Court staff during the closure period. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we face this public health challenge together.