

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
VERMILION COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

**PROBATE DIVISION STANDING ORDER NO. 2020-1
TEMPORARY PROCEDURES FOR PROBATE DIVISION CASES
DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, the Illinois Supreme Court entered an Order - *In re: Illinois Courts Response to COVID-19 Emergency, MR. 30370*, directing all courts to establish and periodically update temporary procedures to minimize potential exposure to and the impact of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus [COVID-19] pandemic on judicial operations, while continuing to provide access to justice;

WHEREAS, the Presiding Circuit Judge for Vermilion County has been granted temporary emergency administrative authority to enter, and has entered administrative orders affecting the general operation of the Rita B. Garman Vermilion County Courthouse pursuant to authority granted by the Chief Circuit Judge under Supreme Court Rule 21(b);

WHEREAS, pursuant to said administrative orders, the judge presiding over a division has the discretion to conduct hearings and consider matters electronically in lieu of postponement or continuance; and

WHEREAS, the judge presiding over the Probate Division considers it to be in the best interests of the health and welfare of all courthouse employees and patrons to adopt the following standing order pertaining to temporary procedures for Probate Division cases during the pandemic:

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

1. **Effective Date:** This Standing Order is effective April 15, 2020 and its measures shall remain in effect through April 30, 2020, unless extended by further order of the court.
2. The following temporary procedures will apply to all cases assigned to the Probate Division:
 - a) The Probate Division will continue to accept proposed agreed orders, and uncontested motions and presentations, including, but not limited to approval of the following:
 - i. Annual accountings;
 - ii. Annual reports;
 - iii. Virtual Representation/Family Settlement Agreements;
 - iv. Expenditures or distributions from a guardianship estate;
 - v. Listing or sale of real estate or other assets of a guardianship estate;

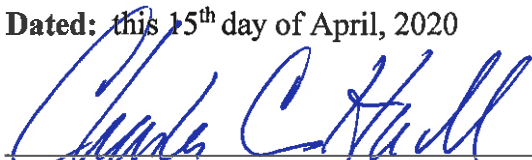
- vi. Petition for appointment of a guardian ad litem or special administrator;
- vii. Actions of an estate representative in supervised administration; and
- viii. Petitions for Attorney/GAL/Guardians Fees.

- b) All requests for an entry of an agreed order or ruling on uncontested matters, shall be uploaded to the E-file system of the Circuit Clerk's Office, with a notation stating a detail of the documents filed, summary of the action requested, and representation by the attorney of record as to the agreed nature of the request. The filing shall include, but not be limited to, the subject motion, any supporting documentation, and the proposed order. If notice to any party would ordinarily be required, the attorney of record must represent that the party to whom notice is required has received all submitted materials and has consented to the proposed action/order.
- c) Upon receipt, the Clerk's Office will forward the filing and the proposed order to the Probate Division judge.
- d) Even where an order is agreed, or uncontested, the Court reserves the discretion to require additional documentation, require a hearing, or deny the proposed order.
- e) In the event the judge does not approve the order, the judge will reject the order and, in the notes, provide further instructions to the parties, as appropriate.

3. Miscellaneous:

- a. The court may issue further orders as necessary to address the circumstances arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, including re-assessing the situation following the suspension period to determine whether normal operations may resume or additional suspension time is still required to avoid the risk of spreading the COVID-19 virus.
- b. It is further ordered that this Standing Order be filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk of Vermilion County, Illinois and be made available to the public.
- c. This Standing Order is effective *instanter*.
- d. This Standing Order shall be posted upon the County's website.

Dated: this 15th day of April, 2020



Charles C. Hall, Circuit Judge