

# 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



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DATE: March 12, 2020

TO: Genesee County Probate Attorneys and Court Patrons

FROM: Sam Olson, Genesee County Probate Court Administrator/Register

RE: COVID-19 – Probate Court Operations

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The Genesee County Court leadership is reviewing court operations consistent with the Michigan Supreme Court, Genesee County and local health officials to respond to COVID-19. Based upon the emergency declaration of Governor Whitmer and communication from Bridget M. McCormack, Chief Justice, Michigan Supreme Court, the Probate Court has implemented the following measures to continue operations in probate proceedings while protecting the health of probate litigants:

### Remote Hearings

- The Probate Court will utilize *Zoom* video/audio conferencing for litigants to appear for hearings
  - Specific instructions regarding *Zoom* and phone appearances can be found on the Genesee County Probate Court website: [www.gcprobatecourt.com](http://www.gcprobatecourt.com).
  - The following email address has been created to coordinate with and ask questions to the court regarding remote hearings: [probatecourt@co.genesee.mi.us](mailto:probatecourt@co.genesee.mi.us).

### Vulnerable Persons

- The Probate Court will utilize remote hearings to ensure vulnerable persons (i.e., at-risk individuals age 60 and over) need not travel to and appear physically at court proceedings. The Court will rely on court-appointed counsel and guardian ad litem to represent and convey the interests of the vulnerable person. Any objection to a petition will be set for a contested hearing.

### Annual Accounts

- Petitions to Allow Accounts will be heard without a formal hearing, consistent with Local Administrative Order 2004-08, unless contested or objected to, in writing, by an interested party.

### Objection Form

- Petitioners shall be required to serve a GCPC 690 Objection to Petition form on all interested parties, with a Proof of Service to be filed evidencing service of the form.

Further information about Genesee County Court operations may be obtained by accessing the Circuit Court website, [www.7thcircuitcourt.com](http://www.7thcircuitcourt.com). The website includes a tab for any COVID-19 updates related to the courts.