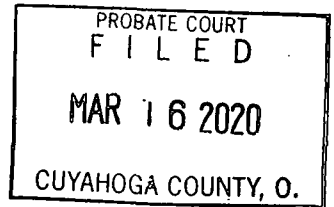


IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
PROBATE DIVISION  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO



CASE NO.: 2020MSC251114

**TEMPORARY ORDER IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19  
(CORONAVIRUS) PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS**

The Probate Division of Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas makes the following Findings of Fact:

1. On March 9, 2020, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine issued Executive Order 2020-01D “Declaring a State of Emergency” in response to the growing COVID-19 public health crisis.
2. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization officially declared COVID-19 to be a global “pandemic” requiring “urgent and aggressive action” to control the spread of the virus.
3. On March 11, 2020, the first “community transfer” positive case of COVID-19 in the State of Ohio was confirmed to be in Stark County.
4. As of March 14, 2020, there are at least eleven confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Cuyahoga County.

Based upon these Findings of Fact, the Probate Division of the Court of Common Pleas has developed a continuum of flexible responses in case the public health crisis escalates further. The continuum of responses is intended to protect public health, to maintain essential court functions, and to continue to protect the rights of all individuals subject to the authority of the Court.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED:**

1. The Cuyahoga County Probate Court Local Rules of Court may be temporarily adapted to allow Court flexibility, within Constitutional limits, in response to the public health emergency.
2. The Cuyahoga County Probate Court security policies may be temporarily amended or supplemented to protect public health while maintaining essential Court functions. Specifically, beginning March 16, 2020, and until further order of this Court, the Cuyahoga County Sheriffs Department shall only permit Probate Court employees and individuals whose names are provided to the Sheriff’s Department and Protective Services entrance to Cuyahoga County Probate Court, as further described in this Court’s Order issued March 16, 2020.

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3. The Cuyahoga County Probate Court Employee Handbook provisions may be temporarily adjusted to maintain essential Court operations and functions.
4. The Cuyahoga County Probate Court authorizes use of audiovisual devices and technology, as well as telephonic technologies, for all actions and proceedings.
5. The public health emergency may be considered to be a finding of good cause for continuances deemed necessary by assigned Judges or Magistrates on a case-by-case basis.
6. The Court will have the lawful authority, within Constitutional limits, to do and direct to be done all things necessary to ensure the orderly and efficient administration of justice for the duration of the declared public health emergency.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**



**JUDGE ANTHONY J. RUSSO,  
ADMINISTRATIVE AND PRESIDING JUDGE**