

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO ROBERT G. MONTGOMERY, JUDGE

SPECIAL NOTICE RE: COVID-19

As a result of the COVID-19 virus emergency, our filing process will change temporarily for cases that are physically paper-filed in our court. E-filing remains available without any change in procedures.

The probate court will remain open to the public and provide all essential services. However, to protect public health, citizens are discouraged from visiting the Franklin County Court complex for matters that are not essential or time sensitive.

Beginning immediately, you should file your paper-filed (non e-filing case) documents by mail or you can drop them off at the court in the 22nd floor lobby. The court's mailing address is:

Franklin County, Ohio Probate Court 373 S. High Street, 22nd Floor Columbus, Ohio 43215-6311

The court will provide drop boxes for your convenience. The court cannot guarantee same-day service on paper filings or documents needing magistrate approval during this time.

Please note that the court can only accept payment by money order or attorney's check at this time for paper-filed cases. Payment by cash or credit card is not available at the court until further notice, except in the marriage department. E-filing payments remain unaffected by these temporary changes.

The duty magistrate desk will be closed until further notice. Please drop off or mail all paper-filed documents requiring approval before filing per the process outlined above. (E-filing procedures remain the same.)

Court personnel are currently reviewing the hearing docket for the next several weeks. You will be notified if your case is being continued to a later date.

Please contact the court's main phone number at 614-525-3894 to obtain information and availability for the Resource Center.

Filings for cases managed through the E-filing system will continue without any change in procedures.

Due to the decision by the Franklin County Commissioners to close the Franklin County Courthouse Complex, effective 3/21/2020, and the "Stay At Home" order issued by Governor DeWine and Ohio Director of Health Dr. Amy Acton, the following new procedures will be in effect for the issuance of marriage licenses starting 3/24/2020.

Marriage licenses will only be issued to those applicants who call the Probate Court in advance to set an appointment. Applicants should call (614) 525-3108 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to schedule an appointment.

Applicants are encouraged to postpone obtaining a marriage license due to the threat of COVID – 19 (coronavirus). However, if you will be getting married within the next couple of weeks, the Probate Court will still issue your marriage license, so long as all legal requirements are satisfied and applicants call in advance to schedule an appointment.

This new process is necessary to allow the Court to respect the required social distancing strongly suggested by the Director of Public Health to help slow the spread of the coronavirus.

Applicants are required to pay in cash with exact change or credit/debit card (Visa, MasterCard, Discover).

Applicants should report to Meeting Hall A (auditorium) in the Franklin County Courthouse, 373 South High Street, Columbus, Ohio. You will be health screened in accordance with a Court Order issued and [found here](#).

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation with us as we continue to deliver services to the people of Franklin County.