



# Robert G. Montgomery, Judge

## Franklin County Probate Court

373 SOUTH HIGH STREET, 22<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215-6311

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BRAD ZUBOVICH  
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March 13, 2020

Re: A Guardian's Responsibilities During the COVID-19 Epidemic

Dear Guardian,

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared that the COVID-19 virus is now a pandemic. In light of this recent development, I wanted to make sure that you, as a court-appointed guardian, understand your guardian responsibilities.

As a guardian, you are the advocate and decision-maker for a vulnerable person. Many of the persons under guardianship in this court live in facilities or have serious underlying health issues. I am very concerned about their health and well-being during this epidemic.

During this emergency, I understand that it may be impossible for you to visit your ward in person, especially if your ward lives in a nursing facility or is in a hospital. I urge you to follow the advice of governmental authorities and medical professionals when considering whether to visit your ward in person. If there is any question in your mind as to whether you may be exposing vulnerable individuals to the COVID-19 virus, I ask that you please communicate with and advocate for your ward via telephone or other remote device.

At present, we expect that the Probate Court will remain open for the foreseeable future. However, it is very possible that public access to our building may be restricted. Therefore, if you need to file a guardian's report or a statement of expert evaluation, we ask that you send it via mail or that you drop it off on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor. We will have drop boxes available for you.

Thank you very much for your continued service as a guardian. I know that we will get through this frightening time if we all rely upon one another.

Sincerely,

*Robert G. Montgomery*

Judge Robert G. Montgomery