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

IN THE MATTER OF :
COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY : **CASE NO. 603535**
AND COURT OPERATIONS :

FILED #19
JUN 19 2020
Robert G. Montgomery, Judge
Franklin County Probate Court

**JOURNAL ENTRY AND COURT ORDER SETTING TEMPORARY PROCEDURES FOR
HOME VISITS BY PROBATE COURT ASSESSORS**

After careful review and consideration of Governor DeWine’s Executive Order 2020-01D declaring a state of emergency and review of the guidelines issued by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services in response to the present COVID-19 pandemic, and in keeping with the guidelines and directives issued by the Supreme Court of Ohio regarding court operations during the pandemic, this court finds it appropriate to implement procedures to promote the safety of its adoption assessors and the public.

Accordingly, the following procedures shall be instituted in all cases where a home visit is being conducted by one of the court’s adoption assessors:

- A. Participants.** Only the adoption assessor and the residents of the home shall be present during a home visit. Exceptions may be made to allow the presence of certain other individuals, such as health care workers or child care providers. Any such requests for exceptions should be submitted to the assessor for approval at least 48 hours in advance. The assessor, the home residents, and any excepted individuals are referred to herein as “participants;” the presence of any non-participants at a home visit shall result in the visit being postponed.
- B. Participant Wellness.** All participants should be free of potential COVID-19 symptoms, including cold-like or flu-like symptoms, for at least 48 hours prior to a home visit, and must also have their temperatures taken the morning of the home visit. If any participant

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is displaying symptoms or has a temperature of 100.4°F or more on the day of the home visit, the assessor shall immediately be informed so that the visit may be rescheduled.

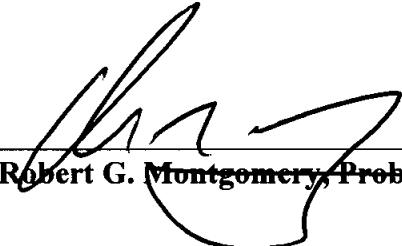
C. Safety Measures During Visit. All participants who are three years of age or older shall wear masks for the duration of the visit unless medically incapable of doing so; the assessor shall be notified at least 48 hours in advance if any participant is medically incapable of wearing a mask. Proper physical distancing of at least six feet should be maintained during the visit whenever feasible. Where feasible, the assessor will conduct individual interviews with home residents out-of-doors after performing the home walkthrough. Failure to comply with these requirements shall result in the visit being continued.

Individuals who do not wish to comply with these procedures may instead arrange for home visits from an independently licensed adoption assessor.

This order shall remain in effect through August 31, 2020, and shall apply to all home visits scheduled to take place on or before that date. During the month of August, the court will review the public health circumstances to determine whether an extension of this order is appropriate.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Date: 6-19-20



Robert G. Montgomery, Probate Judge

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