

Probate Court Operations During the COVID-19 Pandemic

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Issue

Summarize the governor's COVID-19 executive order (EO) that addresses Probate Court operations.

Summary

In March 2020, the governor issued [EO 7K](#) which, among other things, suspended non-critical probate court operations and associated requirements.

Specifically, the order suspends:

1. certain legal requirements related to probate court proceedings and operations, such as reporting, filing, statutes of limitation, and service of process deadlines;
2. all time requirements or deadlines for the probate courts or their judicial officials to issue notices, hold court, hear matters, or render decisions; and
3. court facility, location, or venue requirements.

The order also specifically allows the court to hold hearings or render decisions in time frames as the circumstances warrant and the parties' interest

Probate Court Jurisdiction

The Probate Court has the authority to hear the following types of cases:

- *Estates of deceased persons*
- *Testamentary trusts*
- *Adoptions*
- *Conservators*
- *Commitment of the mentally ill*
- *Guardians of the persons and estates of minors and intellectually disabled*
- *Certain name changes*

requires ([EO 7K](#), § 1, Mar. 23, 2020).

Probate Court Operations in Response to [EO 7k](#)

The Probate Courts have remained available by telephone, eFiling, or for online assistance during the governor's declarations of civil preparedness and public health emergencies.

According to the Probate Courts' [website](#):

1. hearings have continued as scheduled and may be conducted by audio or video conference;
2. emergency and routine filings may be mailed or eFiled; and
3. in-person assistance has become available as town halls begin to expand public hours in accordance with the [ReOpen Connecticut guidance](#).

The availability of in-person assistance at any given local probate court can be determined by calling the court. The Probate Courts' [website](#) lists the specific numbers for each local probate court.

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