



March 13, 2020

The Probate Court of Collin County interacts daily with many people with serious chronic medical conditions and large numbers of older adults. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), these two groups are at higher risk of getting very sick from the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Beginning today and continuing until further notice, we will adopt the following procedures:

- All attorneys, parties, and witnesses are **required** to appear remotely (by videoconference or telephone from their homes or offices) for uncontested matters including will prove ups, determinations of heirship, guardianships, trust modifications, etc.
- Requests to appear remotely in contested matters will be considered individually.
- Requests to waive the appearance of a ward or proposed ward in guardianship proceedings will be granted expansively when agreed by the attorney for the ward or proposed ward.
- Motions for continuance will be granted expansively. Contact our staff by telephone.
- We will work with local authorities and hospitals to arrange remote appearances for patients in mental health cases.

We anticipate using Cisco Webex Teams, FaceTime, and Skype to videoconference beginning March 16, 2020. We will also use telephone conferencing. To arrange remote appearances, please first deliver original wills (if applicable) to the Clerk and e-File all necessary documents (proposed orders, **signed** oaths, **signed** proofs, etc.). Then, contact our staff at 972-548-6463 or 972-548-3810.

We realize adopting these procedures will cause some disruptions for attorneys, their clients, and members of the public. We will work with the Presiding Judge of the Statutory Probate Courts and the Presiding Judge of the First Administrative Judicial Region to modify these procedures, if necessary. I appreciate your conscientiousness and flexibility as we take precautions to protect vulnerable people in our community.


Judge Weldon Copeland